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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Where should the U.S. government build the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Funds for CUC

The Office of Insular Affairs recently awarded the CNMI Office of the Governor $4.05 million dollars for an Oil Containment System for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

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Glimmer of Hope

The arrests of key Taliban leaders in Pakistan and slow but steady progress on the battlefield of Helmand province have offered the first flicker of hope in years that the U.S. and its allies may be able to check the rise of an insurgency that seemed unstoppable only a few months ago.

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Routine Checkup

Child services workers checked on the children of Charlie and Brooke Sheen over the weekend for what was described Monday by the couple's representatives as a routine checkup.

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Misbranded, improperly stored pesticides still a problem. PAGE 2

Torres: NMC Board of Regents should terminate Fernandez. PAGE 4

House OKs resolution to establish Marine Monument center in CNMI

Some lawmakers wary about Subcommittee hearing

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) hovers over House legal counsel Matt Meyer, seated, and Reps. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), and George Camacho (Cov-Saipan) during a session break yesterday afternoon. The House adopted Santos' resolution supporting Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's bill establishing a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitors center in the CNMI.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Racing against time, the House of Representatives adopted yesterday a resolution supporting Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's bill establishing a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitors center in the CNMI ahead of a Thursday hearing in Washington, D.C. on this and another bill that will put the facility in Guam.

Lawmakers took turns justifying the need to adopt Rep. Teresita A. Santos' House Resolution 17-6, a copy of which is to be sent to U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Nick Ra-

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Torres: NMC Board of Regents should terminate Fernandez

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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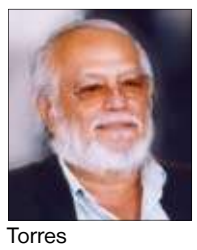

Torres

Fernandez

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said that the Board of Regents should terminate Northern Marianas College President Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who has been suspended from her job in January.

Torres said this during a House session yesterday afternoon, when lawmakers were discussing "miscellaneous" communications.

"The board should terminate her," Torres told his colleagues.

Torres, during the session, alleged that Fernandez bribed a former faculty member $15,000 "to keep his mouth shut"

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More than half of principals and vice principals are acting—PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

More than half of school administrators of the Public School System are serving as acting principals or vice principals.

According to PSS, out of its 39 administrators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, 24 are serving in acting capacities, which translates to 62 percent of the total.

Saipan Tribune also learned that of the number, less than five have been recommended for the permanent position and currently being processed by

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Local

Misbranded, improperly stored pesticides still a problem

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Division of Environmental Quality, the Division of Quarantine, and the Division of Customs Services continue to find pesticides and pesticide devices that are illegal, or those that do not have English labels and are not registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Reina Camacho, manager of DEQ's Pesticides and Storage Tank Branch, said yesterday that since September 2009, there have been 10 to 11 notices of violations and about the same number of advisory notices issued to farmers and farm owners, related to illegal pesticides and pesticide devices.

Most of the NOVs issued were for improper storage and misbranded pesticides.

Camacho was the guest speaker in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

"It's hard for DEQ to determine improper use. What we usually find are improperly stored pesticides. We find them placed on the ground, which may leak and contaminate soil and groundwater," said Camacho in an interview after her presentation on DEQ's pesticides program.

She said DEQ has also found re-used containers of pesticides, which is prohibited under regulations.

The importation, sale or distribution of illegal pesticides in the CNMI places the community, especially children, at risk of being poisoned.

Quarantine and customs personnel also continue to intercept at the borders misbranded pesticides and pesticide devices, and most of them come from China, Korea and Japan.

Camacho said on average, she visits three to four farms a week but there are times when she could not find a farmer or the farm owner in the areas visited.

There are some 200 farms in the CNMI, over 100 of which are on Saipan.

In her presentation, Camacho said it may be better for consumers to choose fruits and vegetables with some blemishes, which may be proof that pesticide was not used to keep the produce fresh.

"If it's too good to be true, then it probably is. It's also important to know who the seller is," she told Rotary Club members and guests.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Reina Camacho, manager of the Division of Environmental Quality's Pesticides and Storage Tank Branch, addresses members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan during its meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan yesterday.

Challenges

But DEQ's pesticides program also has its challenges. For one, Camacho is the only one who is assigned to the Pesticides Program Branch, although some DEQ personnel help her with some of the activities.

Due to lack of resources, the program also does not have the capability to conduct residue testing, in which DEQ could determine from soil testing how often and for how long pesticides are used in a particular farm, among other things.

Moreover, DEQ does not have a space to store intercepted or found misbranded pesticides if they could not be sent to the country of origin.

"We also can't hold them for long because we'll also be in violation of the hazardous materials regulations," she said.

Camacho also asked the help of the business community such as the Rotary Club of Saipan to help report the use of illegal pesticides in the community.

Pesticides that are allowed for entry into and use in the CNMI are those labeled in English, with the name of pesticide in bold letters, restricted use designation, description of which pests are controlled, chemical name of pesticide, active ingredients and percentages, inert ingredients, EPA registration number, patent numbers, directions for proper use and appropriate signal words such as caution, warning or danger poison.

Surveillance camera catches man shoplifting laptop computer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A surveillance camera has caught a man in the act of shoplifting a laptop computer from a computer store in San Antonio last week.

A clear footage of the camera showed the suspect viewing the computers on display inside Bond's Computerland and Accessories last Thursday at noon.

While the store's owner, Bon Tannakan, was busy entertaining another customer, the suspect slowly concealed a laptop computer under his shirt, then left the establishment.

When the suspect left Tannakan noticed that a blue Toshiba 10-inch netbook worth $499 was missing from the glass shelf.

The businessman reviewed the surveillance camera's footages and found out who stole the netbook.

Tannakan said the suspect fled on board on board a pick-up truck.

Tannakan immediately called the police and showed them the footage. Investigators immediately identified the suspect because the footage was very clear.

As of yesterday, the suspect has not yet been arrested.

Last May 20, the Thai Fashion Shop in Chalan Piao owned by Tannakan was burglarized and many electronic devices, including 11 laptops and 14 digital cameras, were stolen. The total value of the items was $10,000 to $11,000.

When Thai Fashion was still located in Afetnas, it was also burglarized and $6,000 worth of jewelry was stolen three to four years ago.

Three months ago, a man identified as Richie Castro took two laptops and one digital camera from Bond's Computerland and promised he would sell them to some friends. Tannakan agreed to help Castro.

Castro, however, went to the Philippines and did not come back.

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OVER DISCHARGED OF TONS OF UNTREATED OILY WASTE

Suspended chief engineer gets 12-month probation sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday sentenced to 12 months of probation a former chief engineer of a vessel over the discharged of approximately 370 tons of untreated oily bilge waste overboard from a ship.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson sentenced John Wylie Davis, also known as Jack Davis, to 12 months probation for false statement and failure to maintain an Oil Record Book.

Munson said the defendant's suspended license to practice as chief engineer remain in suspension until Dec. 16, 2010.

The judge required Davis to perform 200 hours of community work service and pay a $200 special assessment fee.

Munson waived all fines since it has been determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly McCallum recommended a sentence of 12 months probation with conditions.

Defense counsels Loren Sutton and Stephen Jones, who appeared through a video conference, requested a 12-month probation sentence and moved for no fine.

Davis entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to the charges of false statement and failure to maintain an Oil Record Book.

The charges carry maximum penalties of 11 years in prison, $500,000 fine, six years of supervised release, and a $200 court assessment fee.

The factual basis of the agreement stated that on Jan. 7, 2008, as SS *Pless* vessel was underway between Korea and Saipan, the ship's onboard pollution-control equipment, including the oil water separator, was malfunctioning.

At that time, the ship's onboard bilge storage tanks were filled to near capacity. That day, Davis discharged overboard 370 tons of oily bilge waste that had been stored in the bilges and storage tanks of the SS *Pless*.

Davis intentionally bypassed the vessel's pollution control system when he discharged this bilge waste. He did not record in ORB of the ship the discharge of oily bilge waste.

McCallum said U.S. registered vessels certificated for ocean-going service such as SS *Pless* are prohibited by both MARPOL and APPS from discharging oily waste that has not been treated using an oily water separator or other pollution prevention equipment into the ocean at any time and in any location.

MARPOL is the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the Protocol of 1978. APPS refers to Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships.

EEOC complaint filed against Kagman HS principal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System admitted that a complaint against one of its principals was filed at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission two years ago by one of its teachers.

Saipan Tribune learned that former high school teacher Ambrose Bennett filed the complaint against Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada in 2008.

EEOC is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, and others. The laws also apply to all types of work situations, including hiring, firing, promotions, harassment, training, wages, and benefits.

PSS legal counsel Kelley Butcher yesterday confirmed the system's involvement in the EEOC complaint against Ada.

The lawyer described the case as "an ongoing complaint" up to this time and whatever is asked by EEOC, the system is complying with it.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact Ada but calls were not returned yesterday.

Bennett, however, admitted yesterday that he received initial information about the anticipated dismissal of the case last Saturday.

Bennett has recently retired from service as teacher at KHS under the supervision of principal Ada.

"The EEOC complaint is over two years old. I was informed by the EEOC investigator in Hawaii on Saturday that her recommendation was for my complaint to be dismissed with the right to sue," Bennett disclosed.

He said he was also informed by the investigator that the scope of an EEOC investigation "is very narrow and that my chances were much better in civil court" because there were details not admitted into the investigation that will be applicable in civil court.

Bennett, who is known for his vocal criticism of the PSS and the board, said yesterday that he plans to stop the case at EEOC.

"It is not my intent to pursue this any further because the commissioner, Mr. Charlie Kenty and I did meet regarding my retirement and reinstatement as a highly qualified teacher for the juvenile facility," Bennett admitted.

The former NMI teachers' representative to the board also disclosed that he was also offered by the commissioner to help in the creation of an "At-risk" program for all junior high and high schools and possibly an accelerated program for talented and gifted students.

Bennett said he made the two program proposals to PSS and is waiting for the final word from the commissioner.

He declined to further comment about the EEOC case pending the issuance of a formal notification from the commission.

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'Former immigration employees have until Friday to find other jobs'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

On an 18-0 vote, the House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill allowing for the lateral transfer of former Division of Immigration personnel to other government agencies, but this may come too late for 10 to 12 employees who have only until Friday to look for a suitable job in government.

But Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, said he will write a letter to Attorney General Ed Buckingham today to ask him to hold off the issuance of notices to be given to the former immigration personnel who fail to find jobs by the end of the week.

Some of the former immigration personnel showed up at the House session yesterday to seek help from lawmakers.

The only woman in the group was crying while lawmakers were discussing their fate.

Roman Tudela Jr., one of the former immigration officers, said he and his other colleagues face the prospect of unemployment after serving the government for 20 years or more.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), who is a former director of Immigration, asked his colleagues to pass his House Bill 17-20.

The House passed Sablan's HB 17-20, but lawmakers said it is impossible to have the bill signed into law by Friday.

Sablan, in an interview after the session, said while many of the former employees were transferred to other agencies such as the Division of Customs, Department of Corrections, the U.S. Passport Office and the Office of the Attorney General, these transfers are only "temporary" because there is no law to effectuate their lateral transfer to other agencies.

Under Sablan's bill, former immigration personnel shall be provided lateral transfer within other agencies or departments to positions for which they are qualified and shall retain their current salary levels and benefits.

It asked the governor, through the Office of Personnel Management, to administer this transfer.

Some of the personnel need only months or a year to retire.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) instructed Demapan, as JGO Committee chairman, to conduct public hearings to find out why the NMI Retirement Fund continues to deny eligible public employees from retiring.

Sablan and the former immigration personnel said they met with the attorney general on Feb. 12, and they were given until the end of this week to find an appropriate job in other government agencies.

House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said he will look into the budget allocated for full-time employees of the now-defunct Immigration especially because the government is operating under continuing resolution.

Basa earlier said former immigration employees should be reassigned to agencies needing enforcement officers, including the Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control, as well as the Division of Revenue and Taxation, citing their expertise.

Buckingham issued a memorandum on Dec. 31 officially informing departments that the Division of Immigration under the Office of the Attorney General officially ceased operations effective Dec. 31 or a little over a month after the federal government took over local immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

Federalization of local immigration not only marked another chapter in the CNMI's 34-year relationship with the United States, but also leaves American Samoa as the only U.S. territory that controls its own borders.

GOVERNORS MEETING

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shares a light moment with, from left, Gov. Rhode Island Donald Carcieri, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, and Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle at the National Governors Association's Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOUSE

From Page 1

hall, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, Sablan, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) asked the bill's author whether it's possible to have the visitors facility for the Marine Monument in the CNMI and Guam.

Santos (Ind-Rota) said based on her communication with Sablan, there is going to be only one Marine Monument visitors center, and it should be in the CNMI.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife will hold a hearing on Sablan's H.R. 3511 and Bordallo's H.R. 4493 on Thursday in Washington, D.C. or around 1am Friday, Saipan time.

Bordallo chairs the subcommittee that will hear Sablan's bill as well as her own bill.

The Guam delegate's bill seeks to "provide for the enhancement of visitor services, fish and wildlife research, and marine and coastal resource management in Guam related to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument."

'Urgent'

Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said if House members fail to adopt Santos' resolution, then senators in Guam may beat them to it if they pass a resolution right away, supporting a monument center in Guam.

"Hopefully the (U.S. House Subcommittee) will act on our delegate's bill first, and hopefully that's the end of it," he told his colleagues.

Santos also noted that Bordallo "was up against the Marine Monument" when it was still being negotiated.

"Why is Bordallo in a hurry to put up a visitors center in Guam? I don't understand it," Rep. Raymond Palacios said.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said during negotiations on the marine monument, a boost in tourism and employment brought by the establishment of a monument visitors facility in the CNMI were the major benefits touted by proponents of the monument visitors facility.

Benavente, who acknowledged that he's one of those originally opposed to the idea of a marine monument, said it's only fitting that the CNMI get what it's promised.

"With all due respect to the delegate from Guam, Rep. Bordallo is really out of line to suggest now that this visitors center must be established in Guam… It should be established in the CNMI, and not in Guam," he told his colleagues during the session which began shortly after 2pm and went into recess at around 4:30pm.

The speaker asked members whether the marine monument visitors facility will be established on land or water.

Some members laughed at the question but informed the speaker that it will be placed on land.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) told the speaker that the Marine Monument facility will showcase the resources found in the Marine Monument, just like the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center displays memorabilia about World War II.

More concerns

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said Sablan's H.R. 3511 "will allay the concerns of CNMI people" about the Marine Monument, but said he is not at all opposed to Bordallo's request to have a similar facility in Guam.

But Rep. Ray Palacios said once Guam already has the center, visitors will have no reason at all to visit a similar facility in the CNMI.

Lawmakers acknowledged that Guam has a much bigger tourism market than the CNMI.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) is worried whether Bordallo has more clout in the subcommittee than Sablan.

A similar concern is shared by Rep. Ramon "Ray" Tebuteb (R-Saipan), who said that Sablan's bill does not have cosponsors, while Bordallo's bill has almost all the members of the subcommittee that will hear the two bills.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), for his part, also expressed concern that Bordallo's subcommittee will be the one to recommend passage of either or both of the bills, and this may not be to the CNMI's benefit.

Friends of the Monument

Friends of the Monument, the key proponents of the monument leading up to its designation, are asking residents to provide testimony to Bordallo's subcommittee in support of building a Marine Monument visitors center in the CNMI, rather than Guam.

Sample e-letters have been provided by the Friends of the Monument for members of the public who want to submit their comments to Bordallo's subcommittee.

Agnes McPhetres, vice chair of the Friends of the Monument, will be testifying in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the group.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will also testify at the hearing, specifically to ask the United States to "honor its negotiated obligation to the people of the Commonwealth."

CNMI government officials, environmentalists and ordinary citizens are calling on the U.S. Congress to build the Marine Monument visitors center in the CNMI, thereby honoring the Jan. 6, 2009 presidential proclamation.

The vast majority of the monument is located in the waters surrounding the CNMI, including its three northernmost islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion.

Beautify CNMI also said that Saipan is over 100 miles closer than Guam to the area of the monument that is a marine protected area.

The presidential proclamation, signed by former President George Bush, calls for consultation with the CNMI government on the management and planning of the monument.

It also specifically provides for "a program to assess and promote monument-related scientific exploration and research, tourism, and recreational and economic activities and opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

"Many people in the Northern Marianas fought for this and now we are in danger of losing the monument headquarters and facilities to Guam," Angelo Villagomez, director of the Friends of the Monument, had said.

TORRES

From Page 1

after she asked to have students' grades changed in order for them to continue receiving scholarships.

"This is a crime against people," said Torres, who has been critical of Fernandez over a lot of issues, including Fernandez's refusal to release documents requested by Torres using Open Government Act requests.

But to this date, there is no official statement from NMC, the board or any investigative agency as to the nature of Fernandez's suspension.

When asked for comment, NMC spokesperson Frank Eliptico said he had to ask interim NMC president Lorraine Cabrera wanted to comment on Torres' statement during the House session.

Torres said Fernandez, even during her suspension, is still receiving her salary and housing allowance. But NMC said this is allowed under the college's policy.

NMC hired Fernandez in 2007 for an annual salary of $80,000 and an $800 monthly housing.

The Board of Regents resumed its special meeting on Monday but failed to come up with a final decision on the fate of Fernandez. The board refused to comment on the suspension pending the completion of the Office of the Attorney General's investigations on Fernandez.

PSS

From Page 1

PSS' human resource office.

The recommendation for personnel action came from Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

PSS said a significant number of the acting administrators are still in the process of completing the requirements and certification to become permanent administrators.

In order to become highly qualified school administrators, principals and vice principals must fulfill a number of requirements that include obtaining professional administrators' certificates, degree, years of experience as administrator and teacher, and must pass Praxis tests on educational leadership, administration, and supervision.

PSS provides a minimum annual compensation of $40,000 and a maximum of $60,000 per year for school administrators. They also have access to professional development and training to aid them in the compliance of the requirements.

Meantime, PSS recorded a high percentage of highly qualified school counselors as out of the 22 counselors assigned in public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, 18 are considered highly qualified and enjoy a salary based on HQC Compensation Plan adopted by the Board of Education.

Like public school teachers and school administrators, there are set of requirements to be met by school counselors that include a degree, Praxis tests, and counselors' certificates.

Depending on these requirements and the working experience, a public school counselor receives a minimum annual salary of $28,000 up to $47,000. The same compensation was offered by PSS in its highly qualified teachers compensation schedule.

PSS earlier admitted that it lacks counselors in school campuses and hiring is ongoing for the positions.

This school year, there are nearly 11,000 students admitted at 20 public schools in the CNMI. The meager budget from local appropriation limited PSS' capability to get enough school counselors, it was learned.

With the state fiscal stabilization fund provided to the PSS this fiscal year, the system was allowed to restore and hire the needed teachers and counselors totaling to 105.

For school teachers, the system still enjoyed a significant mark of HQT on classrooms with 71 percent.

There are over 500 teachers in all schools which received salary between $28,000 and $47,000 depending on credentials and qualifications.

The remaining 29 percent are teachers who have yet to pass Praxis or awaiting results of the tests.

The U.S. Department of Education has given CNMI-PSS until July 2011 to comply with the highly qualified teachers mandate pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

School administrators, counselors, and classroom teachers are expected to be in compliance with this mandate next year.

ON PAYMENT OF INTERIM DISABILITY BENEFITS TO RETIREE

Wiseman gives Fund administrator 10 days to pay, warns of contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday gave NMI Retirement Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon 10 days to fully comply a court order directing him to immediately pay a retiree his interim disability benefits.

Wiseman said it is his tentative decision that Aguon is in contempt of court.

However, the judge said, he will hold the final ruling on contempt pending Aguon's compliance to pay petitioner Jesus A. Arriola what he is entitled to under the court's previous order.

Wiseman said if Arriola is not in receipt of payment within 10 days from yesterday, Arriola shall file a notice of noncompliance with the court.

"At that time, the Court will finalize its order in this matter for the purpose of issuing its contempt order and sanctions," Wiseman said.

In December 2008, Arriola, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., filed a new petition in court to compel Aguon to immediately pay him his disability retirement benefits.

Arriola asked the court to order Aguon to pay him the sum of 66 2/3 percent of the salary he was receiving at the time of his disability and separation from service of the government.

On Jan. 26, 2009, Wiseman ordered the NMI Retirement Fund to grant interim disability payments to Arriola.

Wiseman ordered Aguon to immediately pay Arriola interim disability payments, as ordered by the Fund's hearing officer on Nov. 1, 2008.

On Oct. 1, 2009, Wiseman heard Arriola's motion to show cause why the Fund should not be held in contempt for not complying with the court's order.

On Jan. 26, 2009, the judge granted Arriola's request for a mandamus instructing Aguon to immediately pay or cause to be paid Arriola the sum of 66 2/3 of the salary he was receiving at the time of his disability and separation of service of the government.

Arriola then filed an order to show cause alleging that Aguon only partially complied with the court's order.

The petitioner said Aguon paid only 50 percent of the salary, even though the hearing officer directed that 66 2/3 percent of the salary be paid.

Arriola also alleged that Aguon paid the benefits for the period beginning in January rather than for the period beginning in June 2008 as directed by the hearing officer and as ordered by the court.

Aguon claimed that he, as the administrator, cannot comply with the court's order because to do so would be to violate the law.

Aguon further claimed that since the Fund's Board of Trustees reached a decision on Jan. 26, 2009, reversing the hearing officer's decision, he should not have to comply with the court's order.

Arriola argued that Aguon offers no valid justification for his willful and intentional refusal to obey the court's order since he never filed an appeal nor did he request a stay in order to appeal the court's order granting mandamus.

In his decision issued yesterday, Wiseman said after reviewing the file, he finds that Aguon did not obey the court's order and did not show good cause for his failure to comply.

Wiseman also determined that although Aguon has made partial payments starting on Jan. 31, 2009, in making those payments, the administrator has misapplied Public Law 13-60 since the hearing officer specifically held that such public law did not apply to Arriola.

The judge said Aguon has further failed to pay disability payments beginning in June 2008.

"The fact that the Board of Trustees finally entered its order after appeal on June 19, 2009, concluding that P.L. 13-60 and P.L. 16-19 apply to petitioner and reversing the hearing officer's decision does not justify the respondent's failure to follow this Court's order," he said.

Fund seeks to cut FY drawdown in half

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees wants to cut by half the drawdown from its investment fund—from last year's $43 million to $22 million this fiscal year.

In line with the drawdown, board chairman Sixto Igisomar also admitted that the Fund's negotiating panel is working closely with the administration's team pursuant to a court judgment.

It was in June last year when the Supreme Court ruled that the central government incurred over $231.6 million in unpaid employer's contributions that resulted in the shaky status of the agency's investment monies.

It ordered both parties to "negotiate for payment" to satisfy the judgment, which also mandated the central government to pay a higher contribution rate and remit certain taxes to the Fund.

As of last month, the government's unpaid contribution jumped to $280 million.

As of December 2009, investments of the Fund totaled $335 million. The amount could have been higher if withdrawals have not been made in several years.

The Retirement Fund has the following asset allocations: common stocks account for 65 percent; fixed income, 27 percent; hedge fund, 6 percent; and money market, 2 percent.

This Friday, Igisomar said a case hearing is scheduled for both negotiating teams.

"The negotiation is ongoing and a case hearing is set on Friday. We're working as far as what other avenues can we work together to be able to get a little bit more funding for the investment funds. It is our main goal as trustees to neutralize the drawdown or possibly lower down it by half [this fiscal year]," Igisomar said.

Since November last year, the central government has been paying 20 percent employer's contribution rate and remitted the necessary taxes as mandated by the court. These taxes are estimated at over $100,000 per month.

The Fund's actuarial study has earlier proposed a 37-percent employer's contribution rate. But laws have been enacted mandating some agencies to remit 24 percent then 11 percent to the Fund, including the central government.

Igisomar admitted that the trustees, on top of what the government is providing, wants to collect more so it could help minimize the withdrawals from the fund investment.

However, the board chairman refused to give a number as to the additional payment they are seeking from the central government.

"The negotiating team wants the government to come up with a more solid plans so if we have that funding coming in, we can lower down the withdrawals to pay for the Fund's obligations," he admitted.

Fund Administrator Mark A. Aguon disclosed that for the past three years, the Fund drawdown ranged from $35 to $40 million per year. In FY 2009, total withdrawals amounted to $43 million of which big bulk used to pay pension obligation to members.

Saipan Tribune learned that for FY 2010, the trustees adopted a $55 million budget for its drawdown.

Igisomar pointed out that the drawdown allocation was based on the historical numbers of the Fund and in anticipation of more retirees this year.

He, however, emphasized that the board is optimistic that the full amount won't be taken out this fiscal year as a result of projected positive year for the agency.

The board chairman said they are also supporting any idea that would decrease the drawdown, including the floating of a bond as earlier proposed by the legislature.

"We are in favor to any amount that would come into the investment Fund," he admitted.

Chamber to host tax workshop this Friday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a workshop covering 2009 tax year issues for businesses and individuals, next Friday, Feb. 26, 9am, at the chamber's conference room.

Once again, the chamber is fortunate to have Ed Aguilar of Deloitte & Touche Guam and Edmund Brobesong of Ernst & Young Guam making this presentation. The presentation should conclude at approximately noon, depending on the number of questions from participants.

Seating is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost for workshop attendees is $10 per person for members and $20 per person for non-members.

For more information, e-mail Kelli Blalock at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

KagHS Parent Literacy Night on March 4

Kagman High School will hold its Parent Literacy Night on March 4, 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Kagman High School Cafeteria.

Organizers said that they will discuss ways parents can encourage a love of Mathematics and help their child develop those skills right at home.

"Experts agree that Mathematics is one of the foundations for school success. And no matter what a child's age, research proves that parents play an important role in building these needed skills," organizers said. ***(PR)***

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As of January 1, 2010, your Group Life Insurance Benefit offered through the CNMI Government is provided by Individual Assurance Company.

All eligible CNMI Government employees and retirees are invited to the IAC office of Don Barcinas to re-enroll. The office will be open 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. every day this week.

You must re-enroll by this Friday, February 26, 2010.

Check with your Human Resources office to see if they have scheduled an on-site enrollment meeting with IAC.You may also re-enroll through your Human Resources office.

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NMC names new business department chair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College named Dr. John Griffin as its new Business Department chairperson.

He takes over a position left vacant by Eric Plinske who retired in 2008.

Griffin served as an NMC instructor and department chairperson, initially on Rota and later on Saipan from 2000 to 2006.

As the new department chair, he will also be responsible for teaching a number of business courses.

Dr. Griffin is thrilled about his new assignment at NMC.

"My family and I are thrilled to be back in Saipan and at NMC again after nearly four year hiatus in Florida. I am looking forward to working with staff and faculty at NMC toward continuous improvement and efficiency of the business department and its curriculum," he said.

Dr. Griffin is no stranger to NMC or to the Marianas, having first visited the islands decades ago when he was a submarine sailor in the U.S. Navy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. John Griffin was recently appointed chairperson of Northern Marianas College's Business Department.

He is a retired U.S. Naval commander with more than a dozen awards and decorations and a quarter century of active duty with service from Vietnam to Iraq.

He has also more than three decades of collegiate undergraduate and graduate teaching experience in Japan, Puerto Rico, Florida, Cuba, and the Marianas.

Dr. Griffin's business experience includes serving as a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch, a claims adjuster/examiner for Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies, and chief executive officer of American Electric Company of Florida.

According to NMC, the new chairperson has years of education under his belt. He received a bachelor degree in General Studies in Business from University of Maryland, a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University in Malibu, a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Troy State University in Alabama, and a Doctorate of Business Administration from University of Sarasota in Florida.

NMC Interim President Lorraine Cabrera, in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, said the college is confident in the capability of Dr. Griffin.

"We are very confident that Dr. Griffin would continue our mission to provide quality instruction to our students who are currently aiming towards a degree in business and computer application," said Cabrera.

The business department is one of six academic departments at NMC.

Dr. Griffin's appointment makes it three the number of chairpersons currently onboard at NMC.

These include Frank Sobolewski of the Department of Social Sciences and Fine Arts and newly hired James Thomas Kline of the Languages and Humanities Department.

Vacant positions include those for the Science and Mathematics, School of Education, and the Nursing Department.

Man allegedly comes home drunk, then assaults wife in front of kids

Police arrested over the weekend a man who allegedly came home drunk and beat up his wife in front of their minor children in Tanapag.

Mariano Rios was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During his initial court appearance on Monday, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo set a $1,250 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Detective Steven Castro stated in his report that a female called the Department of Public Safety on Thursday night to report about a domestic violence in Tanapag.

Castro said when responding police officers arrived, they observed the victim crying.

The victim told police that her husband hit her on the left face. Police officers noticed that the victim suffered a small scratch on the cheek.

The victim stated that she and Rios were drinking at a friend's house in Tanapag. At 10pm, her husband was drunk and became rowdy.

The wife decided to go home by walking. After a few minutes, Rios arrived home and started yelling at their children on the whereabouts of their mother.

Rios then allegedly shouted profanities at his wife and hit her hard on the face.

The children told police that they saw the assault because they heard a loud noise.

The victim said they have a history of domestic violence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
ELIHSA INOKE WENIO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP OF SARA DELFINA WENIO FLORES, Minor Child, By ELIHSA INOKE WENIO Petitioner.	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0060 NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that the above-stated matter shall come on for hearing on the 8th day of March, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Superior Court on the petition of Elihsa Inoke Wenio for her appointment as general guardian for minor child Sara Delfina Wenio Flores (d.o.b. 03/28/2002) born on Saipan. Those wishing to be heard on this matter, please contact Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, or appear at the Commonwealth Court at the above-stated date and time.

Dated.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Anti-bullying campaign heats up at Hopwood

Hopwood Junior High School will conclude Anti-Bullying Week (Feb. 22-26) this Friday with a roadside wave and a display of banners at the front gate of the school.

The activity will start at 8:30am and will be part of the school's Anti-Bullying Week that started with a theme "See it, stop it, beat it!" Aside from the roadside wave and display of banners, the campaign also includes poster-making and essay writing all geared to raise awareness of bullying and to strategize ways to stop it.

"Following that activity our students will participate in a rally at our stage, viewing skits and performances directed at ending bullying and harassment. Additionally, Officer Jason Tarkong has kindly agreed to speak to our students about forms of bullying and safe ways to prevent or stop it," organizers said.

On Friday afternoon, all public schools across the island are invited to join the Anti-Bullying Parade to be held at American Memorial Park at 4:30pm and ending at the Carolinian Utt by 7pm.

The Public School System is enlisting the support of the Department of Public Safety, Trench Tech, and Department of Environmental Quality to assist Hopwood during the parade.

"We sincerely hope that you and your children join us for this important event and help us raise community awareness about this issue facing our schools! Please show your support and help us "See it, stop it, beat it!"" ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct live-fire, laser training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct live-fire and laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 27 from 7:45am to 11:15am.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from these areas during the time and date indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-3209. ***(PR)***

Kittens up for adoption

Pet Assistance and Welfare Services and Paradise Island Animal Hospital have some beautiful kittens that are up for adoption to a loving and responsible home.

The three kittens are seven to eight weeks old and have coats of black, tabby, and white orange.

All are in excellent health and have been de-wormed. If you are interested in adopting one or more of these playful kittens, contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669.

For more information on these animals, and many more, please visit the PAWS website at www.paws-saipan.org. ***(PR)***

Education and agriculture featured in 'John Gonzales Live'

John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 tonight will first feature "Invest in Your Future!—Career and Trades (CTE) Education Month. What is PSS Doing to Educate our Students Towards Career and Trades Occupation for the 21st Century in an island economy?" Guests will include Jessica Barcinas-Taylor, PSS CTE Coordinator; Karen Borja, Principal, Marianas High School; Tyce Mister, Cooperative Education Teacher, MHS; Harold Easton, Fine Arts Teacher, MHS; and Eric Magofna, Vice Principal, Kagman High School. A second show will feature "Third CNMI Agricultural Summit – The Future of Agricultural Industry" with guests Manny M. Pangelinan, DLNR; and Michael Ogo, NMC CREES. Call 287-4230, text 285.META (6382), or email johngonzales@pticom.com for your comment and/or question. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-10-016

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Power Generation facilities in Saipan.

A mandatory pre-bid and site visit meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010 at 1O:OO AM (CHST) local time at the Power Generation Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work may be pick-ed up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB-10-016 GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10:OO AM (CHST) local time**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

- Contract will be awarded for a (1) One Year Term, upon issuance of Notice to Proceed.
- Selected firm must provide its company's latest BGRT/Withholding Tax information.
- Selected firm must provide copies of valid work permits for each employee to be assigned at CUC.
- Selected firm and all subcontractors must provide documents as proof that the firm is covering its employees under the Workman's Compensation program and is paying its employees pay wage rates not less than the current Federal minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The selected firm will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- Quotation for said services shall be valid for 60 days from date of submittal.
- This Scope of Work shall become "Exhibit A" of the Ground Maintenance Contract.

All inquiries must be submitted no later than Monday, March 1, 2010, 10:OO AM. in writing to Manuel B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email to msablan@cucgov.net and Almondo Santos, Power Generation Manager at pwrgen@cucgov.net.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All Bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR	/s/ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/13 Sat	2/11 Thu	2/11 Thu	2/9 Tue	2/6 Sat	2/19 Fri	2/15 Mon	2/14 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/15 Mon	2/19 Fri	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	005E	2/20 Sat	2/18 Thu	2/18 Thu	2/16 Tue	2/13 Sat	2/26 Fri	2/22 Mon	2/21 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/22 Mon	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	3/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	034E	2/27 Sat	2/25 Thu	2/25 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/20 Sat	3/5 Fri	3/1 Mon	2/28 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/6 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/4 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/27 Sat	3/12 Fri	3/8 Mon	3/7 Sun	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	3/8 Mon	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	3/16 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/13 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/11 Thu	3/9 Tue	3/6 Sat	3/19 Fri	3/15 Mon	3/14 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/15 Mon	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/27 Sat	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/3 Wed	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Fri	3/13 Sat	3/18 Thu	4/6 Tue	3/21 Sun	3/17 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	005E	3/6 Sat	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue	3/10 Wed	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/19 Fri	3/20 Sat	3/25 Thu	4/13 Tue	3/28 Sun	3/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	034E	3/13 Sat	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/17 Wed	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Fri	3/27 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/4 Sun	3/31 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/20 Sat	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue	3/24 Wed	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	SKIP	4/2 Fri	4/3 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/11 Sun	4/7 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/27 Sat	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	SKIP	3/31 Wed	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Fri	4/10 Sat	4/15 Thu	5/4 Tue	4/18 Sun	4/14 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	035E	4/3 Sat	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue	4/7 Wed	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/16 Fri	4/17 Sat	4/22 Thu	5/11 Tue	4/25 Sun	4/21 Wed

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A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

Anatahan Taga Adventure 1997

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*

File photo of an NMI Boy Scouts encampment. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Congressman explains that as a little boy and teenager, he would go and catch lizards for Mr. Gus Camacho of San Roque. The catch would be to stuff the animal and sell it as a souvenir to tourists. The technique involved small slit just enough for air pressure pump hose to fit. The animal blown up and then inflated, skin would make peeling and getting rid off bones and meat easy. The Congressman would giggle and say that sometimes he would do the technique while the animal was still alive. The coconut crab got cooked by our chief chef today and remaining adults at camp at the kitchen feasted on the large crustacean.

The villager continued eastward in the ocean below and taking their time. Mr. Luis Wabol explains that the villagers were trolling for tuna, and the bats did not make it. Mr. Wabol joined the villagers on the first day of camp and only now joins us again. He was dropped off at the beach and the villagers continued fishing. He explains that after 35 years, the island's vegetation had changed a lot and does not remember most of his childhood stays. The water was clear and huge snappers displayed their fins below. We heard two gunshots in the direction of the hikers and saw the three gunners on a hill. They disappeared into the raving again. There were several gunshots again and then silence. The day's sun had become so intense you'd feel as if you are next to a furnace.

The villagers went out to the edge of the seas until they were simply speck again. After a nap, Congressman and Scout Master yelled and called. The villagers returned, climbed the side of the rocks and brought with them a bag stuffed with giant fishes, the catch of the day. The villagers number four. A big one carries a small video camera. A short, dark man shooed the flies while Ben Pua and Al Saurez cut away for soup and sashimi. The others converse in Carolinian. The youngest, almost just a boy, takes turn with the video camera. In Carolinian, the conversation got livelier, and the betel nut ceremony is exercised and red teeth and smiles are displayed every now and then. Betel nut transaction occurs, the exchange of lime, leave, betel nuts and cigarettes.

Gifts were given and the Congressman makes me single crutch for my left-footed gout. An axe was a gift. Frozen chicken too. Larry returns with a game. The game was hung up on a tree were others hung before and are now just bones in the ground and are in young boy's memories. The present one bloated its stomach and its head strung up. He's got nowhere to go. Mr. Flores tells his story, while he was on the other side of the ravines. We saw him put his homestead corner marker, marking his boundary so others won't claim it. He says that there were two white goats sleeping, and about two arms away, a brown goat on a root branch neighed and woke up the two, the boys in the distance shouted pointing goats ahead not knowing Mr. Flores was there. Mr. Flores docked and hid; afraid he may get shot at. No shots and he ran. The boys were hiking in the direction of the beach, towards Mr. Flores and invading his homestead lot.

At the fellowship meeting, Doctor Hofschneider complains that the ridge they took was not more than the size fit for goats and that he discovers that he was afraid of heights. The encouragements of Mr. Bermudes and Herman Lieto on Doctor Hofschneider made his fears go away. God was given thanks that everything was fine. The water has been good at the beach. Jess Omar explains about safety and the importance of the lead man trying or scouting to see if the others could make it and find a trail.

Joe Bermudes explains about the eradication program and the concern that boys may have mixed feelings of waste, but the purpose is to control the animals. Jess Omar explains further that we are helping the island and his work. Questions asked: "Was it more just control and waste or was it more like having fun killing the goats?" Mr. Ben Pua explains about the haps at camp and that the Congressman is to blame for the demise of the crab and that should conclude the story of *Larry and the Crab* and that a new chapter begins with "*Congressman and the Lizard"*.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-067 (A) (B) (C)
Submission/Opening Date: March 19, 2010 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) PORTABLE INSTANT RAPID MESSENGERS (2-CIF–SAIPAN, 1-CIF–TINIAN, 1-CIF–ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-068
Submission/Opening Date: March 19, 2010 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PORTABLE RADAR SPEED TRAILER–CIF-TINIAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–TINIAN POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DEQ-069

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2010 **TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 150 HP OUTBOARD 4-STROKE ENGINE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDRALLY FUNDED PROJECT: AS SUCH, **LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE**, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will have a Wellness and Rehabilitation Day on Friday, February 26th, 2010 from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Services for this particular day will be temporarily halted until Monday March 1, 2010. For any urgencies please call 287-6538.

Thank you for your full support and understanding.

/s/ Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

This announcement is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 24, 1999

Benefits, wage hike can't go together: HANMI, Chamber

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands yesterday said the CNMI government must repeal a law that require businesses to provide subsidies in housing, food, transportation and medical treatment to non-resident workers if it would allow the gradual phasing in of federal minimum wage. Based on the ten step plan of the government for stronger enforcement of labor and immigration laws, the established Wage Review Board will ensure the implementation of US minimum wage without economic disruption. The Chamber will accept a proposal for a gradual increase in minimum wage based on federal standard if businesses would be given credits for subsidies on housing, food, local transportation and medical treatment of non-resident workers, according to Kerry M. Deets, president of the association.

Continental stops collecting passports

After getting so much flak in its handling process, Continental Micronesia will no longer collect the passports of transiting passengers to Guam even if they have no visa to Guam and the United States. The policy cover passengers coming from various points in Asia and from the Micronesia islands, eligible to transit in Guam International Airport, but who do not have a visa to enter Guam or the United States. US Immigration laws require passengers to transit without visa as long as they present their passport to the carrier. The change in procedure was also an offshoot of meetings between the airline officials, Philippine Consulate and the INS.

Feb. 24, 2000

Northwest balks NMI request for more airline seats

Northwest Airlines, the only remaining air transport player which provides direct flights between Japan and Saipan, has turned down a request from the CNMI Aviation Task Force for additional passenger seating capacity. In a letter to Task Force Chair JM Guerrero, Northwest-Japan director for revenue management and market planning Steven Crowdey said the airline company is currently not likely to add capacity from two Japanese cities. The CNMI Aviation Task Force, the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Marianas Visitors Authority have contacted Northwest for possible additional capacity from either Osaka or Nagoya, Japan.

Senate overrides governor veto on 3 bills

Three legislative measures will automatically become public laws after the Senate yesterday overturned the governor's veto on three bills which the House of Representatives also nullified earlier this week. In overriding Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's rejection of the proposed measures, both houses of the 12th CNMI Legislature underscored the need to implement Senate Bills 11-464 and 11-148 and House Bill 11-493 which were all introduced and passed during the previous legislative leadership. With the executive's rejection having been invalidated, all three bills automatically become public law even without the signature of Mr. Tenorio.

Feb. 24, 2003

CPA in talks with US Customs

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will initiate discussions with the U.S. Customs about the possibility of making the Northern Marianas a pre-clearance point for mainland-bound cargoes. The proposal will make the Commonwealth a host to thousands of cargoes that are supposed to be shipped to the mainland U.S. from various shipment points across Asia, according to Carlos H. Salas, CPA executive director. "If the volume picks up and we get a portion of that market, it would help us keep the costs of operating the Saipan seaport down. But there are several issues that we need to discuss first with the U.S. Customs before the quota restriction is lifted in 2005," Salas said.

Kids' park to open on March 28

After months of delay, the half-a-million-dollar Gualo Rai Children's Park and Youth Center will finally open its gates to the community on March 28, coordinators said Friday. The Gualo Rai community and nearby villages have been looking forward to the official unveiling of the state-of-the-art after-school facility, whose primary services will focus on tutoring and mentoring, as well as youth-oriented recreational activities. Rep. William S. Torres, a major proponent of the project, said the new Gualo Rai facility would be the first CNMI youth center to offer college preparatory services-such as how to fill out college applications and find financial resources to support postsecondary schooling.

OIA awards $4 million to CNMI for oil containment

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Anthony Babauta poses with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at Babauta's office in Washington, D.C.

The Office of Insular Affairs recently awarded the CNMI Office of the Governor $4.05 million dollars for an Oil Containment System for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

This award was made on Feb. 22, 2010, during Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's trip to Washington, D.C. for attendance at the National Governors Association and meetings with various federal agencies.

"I am thankful for Assistant Secretary Babauta's swift action in providing the required funding to address the oil containment issue. I believe that his quick and decisive action to grant the required funding to the CNMI will allow us to avoid a potential disaster with respect to the oil containment," said Fitial.

Stipulated Order Number Two (SO2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the Commonwealth was entered into by the United States District Court for NMI on March 11, 2009. SO2 is intended to ensure that CUC's power plant facilities achieve compliance with the Clean Water Act. These requirements include elimination of oil spills, implementation of appropriate spill prevention measures, effective inspection procedures for its oil storage facilities, providing containment for oil storage facilities, and preparing appropriate operating plans.

"I am pleased to have been able to award CIP funds to help the Northern Mariana Islands address these critical weaknesses and ensure compliance with the Stipulated Order as soon as possible. Securing the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's used oil is critical to the health and safety of CNMI residents," said Assistant Secretary Babauta.

The most pressing concern is for CUC to secure its oil spills, oil containers, and spill response capabilities immediately before another typhoon threatens CUC's facilities.

During his meeting with Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony Babauta and Director of Insular Affairs Nikola Pula, Governor Fitial covered a variety of issues concerning the CNMI's economy, CIP funding requests, and issues surrounding the implementation of Public Law 110-229. The governor's recent submission for funding through the Office of Insular Affairs included a public cemetery, a septic system for the Department of Public Safety, funding for roads in precinct IV, rehabilitation of a Rota gymnasium, wastewater projects, additional classrooms on Tinian, and both Tinian and Rota landfills.

In addition, the Governor submitted request for Technical Assistance funding to fund a Geothermal Assessment, Completion of the Rota and Tinian Consumer Price Index which is already partially funded through other grant monies, and the development of an updated Tourism Strategic Master Plan for MVA. ***(PR)***

OIA's Babauta to convene IGIA interagency group meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Tuesday, Feb. 23 (Wednesday, Feb. 24, local time) Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Anthony Babauta will convene the 2010 Principals' Meeting of the IGIA.

The IGIA was first created by President Bill Clinton to address policies concerning American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The IGIA continued in the Administration of President George W. Bush and remains in existence under President Barack Obama.

The IGIA is currently chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and is comprised of representatives from every Federal agency. Tuesday will mark the second meeting convened under Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's leadership, and the first chaired by Assistant Secretary Babauta on behalf of Secretary Salazar.

"The IGIA has always been an entity that sought to provide a forum to the islands' Chief Executives, its Members of Congress, and other elected officials when it came to navigating the bureaucratic largess of the Federal government," stated Babauta. "There

are significant hurdles to changing perceptions of our U.S. Territories and my hope is that the members of the IGIA are renewed in focus, energy, and purpose to carry out the change needed to improve the lives of our fellow Americans living in American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Some notable participants at the 2010 IGIA Principals' Meeting who are expected to attend:

■ Hon. Cecilia Muñoz, Director, White House Intergovernmental Affairs

■ Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

■ Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Undersecretary of Defense

■ Hon. Cynthia Giles, Deputy Administrator for EPA

■ Hon. Victor Vasquez, Deputy Undersecretary of USDA

■ Hon. Wallace Gregson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security

■ Hon. Juliette Kayyem, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Intergovernmental Affairs

■ Ms. Emily Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for Intergovernmental Affairs

■ Ms. Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILON TANU PUBLIKU

Segun i lai Publiku 15-2, Seksiona 106, i Depattamention Tanu Publiku ha notitisia todus ni intension para ma-atkilan tanu publiku gi Lower Base, Saipan. Libre i publiku muna` halom hafa hinassoña nu este na planu.

i. I tanu gaige gi Lot No. 038 E 02 ya i minedoñg 6,800 metru kuatdrau, poku mas o`menus. Guaha kopian este na lugat gi Depattamention Tanu para haye malagu umina.

ii. I para u fan atkila i Success International Corporation ni ineluluye as Señor Guo Jun Miao. Guiya lokue sekretariu yan treasurarion i kompania.

iii. I mapropopone na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Miao.

iv. I lugat para bisnis man-areglan kareta yan man-mueba tumobit 24 oras diariamente. I tetminon atkilon para 25 años na tiempu ya siña lokue ma-ekstende para otru 15 años. I tutat atkilon gaige gi pot sientu gi ma-katkula ni marehistra na kompanian man-ebaluan balin tanu.

v. I kopian kontratan atkilon gaige gi Depattamention Tanu gi Joeten Building, Dandan, Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luta; yan primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Bldg. giya Tinian.

vi. I Depattamenton Tanu taya renisibiña kabales na propositu pot atkilon i lugat ni gaige guine na anunsiu.

vii. I Sekcretariun Depattamenton Tanu siña ha resibe nina halum publiku pot este priniponen atkilon, fabot `sino kinentra, antes `sino Måtso ida 8, 2010 gi katkuet offinan tanu giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONGOL REEL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól alléghúl toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Teel faluwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyegh, aweewe, reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toualp ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No 038 E 02, eyoor olangaras walabwughúw (6,800) square meters, elapeló ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuleey fischi.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Success International Corporation, CNMI Corporation. Samwoolul Corporation nge Guo Jun Miao.

Samwoolul Treasurer/Sekkeretoria nge Guo Jun Miao.

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ayoora me mwóghutáágheli fasilidóód fengál me leliyel ffééról ghareeta. 24-hours reel towing service shop, me akkááw angaangal.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge ebwe reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years) me emmwel ebwe sóbwusóbw ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 yrs)

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú llól bwuleey yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commerial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwo (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchuluyol.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng kkaal, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mááilap 8, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 038 E 02, containing an area of approximately 6,800 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Success International Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Director of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with a complete automobile repair shop, 24-hour towing service shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 8, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Climate insurance

The earth is warming. A chief cause is the increase in greenhouse gases accumulating in the atmosphere. Humans are at least in part responsible, because the oil, gas and coal that we burn releases these gases. If current trends persist, it's likely that in coming decades the globe's climate will change with potentially devastating effects for billions of people.

Contrary to what you may have read lately, there are few reputable scientists who would disagree with anything in that first paragraph. Yet suddenly we're hearing that climate change is in doubt and that action to combat it is unlikely. What's going on?

First, climate science is complex, and there is much that we still do not understand. Politicians, advocates and scientists who have claimed a level of certainty unsupported by evidence—about exactly how climate change will unfold or is unfolding—have not helped the cause. Second, as in any research effort being conducted by thousands of scientists across many years and many countries, mistakes will be made in the research or in its collection and reporting. The mistakes that have been revealed recently—about, most prominently, the likely melting rate of Himalayan glaciers—need correcting. But in the overall picture, they are trivial.

Politicians nonetheless have seized on both the trivial mistakes and the complexity of the science to cast doubt on the underlying and unrefuted truth of human-caused greenhouse gas accumulation. In many cases, it is hard to know whether they are being obtuse or dishonest, and hard to know which would be worse.

What's the right response? It seems to us there are two key arguments that can provide some shelter for politicians who want to do the right thing. The first is to acknowledge a level of uncertainty in the predictions and make the case for taking out an insurance policy, as would any prudent homeowner. It's true that we don't know for sure how many degrees warmer the Earth will be, on average, by 2050 or what effect this will have on the ferocity of storms or coastal flooding or starvation-inducing drought. But it's also true that, as the science has progressed, the predictions have become more dire, not less—and that they are still as likely to be too optimistic as the reverse. If there is action that can be taken, now, to begin to reduce the dangers, why would we not do so?

The only cogent answer we have heard is that action is hopeless: that wrenching the economy away from its dependence on oil and coal would be so expensive, and the resulting benefit so minimal, that it's not worth trying. Those who make this case in a rational way don't deny the existence of climate change, but they say that the money should be spent instead on mitigation and research into alternative technologies. Our view is that it makes no sense to give up before trying—especially since measured government action could unleash technological innovation that in turn would make the costs far less than predicted.

And all the more so when—and this is the second key point—the action that would have the most beneficial effect with regard to climate change is in the national interest anyway. A gradually rising carbon tax made sense even before "global warming" entered most people's vocabulary. Almost as useful would be a simple cap-and-rebate system that required industry to pay for greenhouse-gas emissions. Either would reduce American dependence on dictators in Saudi Arabia and Venezuela while lowering air pollution of all kinds. Neither would require a complicated government bureaucracy of the kind that has understandably alarmed some people while giving others a pretext for opposition. And if politicians can't bear to stand behind an increased tax, the revenue from either proposal could all be returned in a fair and progressive way.

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IMMIGRATION FORUM

Rumors again: WIC

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rumors hurt people. We said that in our very first column, and it's one of the reasons we started writing. Rumors make people believe that they will get something to which they are not entitled, cause them to do things they shouldn't, and not do things they should. This past week we learned about another false immigration rumor, and this one actively harms people's health.

The WIC Rumor: Completely false

The new rumor, totally false, is that an alien who receives help from WIC ("Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children") will be barred from receiving a green card or other U.S. immigration benefits. We received an e-mail from Dianne C. Esplin, the WIC Clinic manager, stating that since the federalization of immigration on Nov. 28, many people who qualify for the program are either dropping out or declining to enroll.

WIC is a very important program operated under the USDA's Food & Nutrition Service. The WIC website, http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/, states that "WIC provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk." Dianne Esplin adds that "unlike food stamps, WIC does NOT require U.S. citizenship for services. We can serve *anyone* who resides on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota who is pregnant, post partum, or has a child under age 5, if their household income is under 185 percent of the Federal Poverty level. We provide nutrition education, breastfeeding support, free nutritious foods, and referrals to other services. . . . We have PLENTY of money to serve both our U.S. and non U.S. citizens who qualify, and we'd love it if they'd come back." CNMI's WIC program has its own website, http://www.cnmiwic.org/, phone number 664-4084.

What are means-tested public benefits? The USCIS Poverty Guidelines

Most important from an immigration perspective, WIC services ARE NOT the kind of "means-tested public benefits" that can disqualify applicants for U.S. immigration benefits. It is true that the federal government is concerned that immigrants prove that they are not likely to become "public charges," and therefore require that applicants' households either have an income equal to 125 percent of the annual Poverty Guidelines published by USCIS as Form I-864P (available at the "Forms" tab at the USCIS website, http://www.uscis.gov), or have sufficient assets to offset any income shortfall, or have a joint sponsor whose own household qualifies under the Poverty Guidelines. And some forms of government aid may be disqualifiers, but only if received by the alien applicant (but not, for example, if received by the applicant's U.S. citizen children). The I-864P lists, for example, food stamps (but not always – see the list later in this article), regular Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

What aren't? The USCIS Public Charge Fact Sheet

But the Poverty Guidelines list a number of programs that are not included as possible disqualifiers, such as emergency Medicaid. The list is long, but there is a more detailed source of information we prefer to use, the Public Charge Fact Sheet issued by USCIS on Oct. 20, 2009, which you can find at http://tinyurl.com/yhq5qph, or by searching for it by name on the USCIS main page. (The "tinyurl" is a compressed version of that page's very long web address, but it will get you there.)

The Public Charge Fact Sheet defines "public charge," for the purpose of determining that an alien is inadmissible, to mean "an individual who is likely to become 'primarily depending on the government for subsistence." But the Fact Sheet also states—and this is worth quoting in full:

"Immigration and welfare laws have generated some concern about whether a non-citizen may face adverse immigration consequences for having received Federal, state, or local public benefits. Some non-citizens and their families are eligible for public benefits—including disaster relief, treatment of communicable diseases, immunizations, and children's nutrition and health care programs—without being found to be a public charge."

With regard to the potentially disqualifying forms of assistance listed by the Poverty Guidelines, the Public Charge Fact Sheet says that merely receiving those benefits does not automatically make a non-citizen inadmissible, ineligible to adjust status or deportable. Each case is looked at individually.

The Public Fact Sheet concludes with a long list of benefits that are not considered in determining whether an alien may become a public charge. Here's the list, in abbreviated form:

Short-term Medicaid and other health insurance and health services not used for support for long-term institutional care

Children's Health Insurance Program

Nutrition programs, including, specifically, WIC and other programs, and also Food Stamps. The reference to Food Stamps contradicts the Poverty Guidelines. The Public Charge Fact Sheet was issued only a few months ago, and we will follow it. We will need to see if Food Stamps continue to be listed on the 2010 Poverty Guidelines, due during the next month. But in the meantime, it is worth noting that in the CNMI, aliens are not directly eligible for Food Stamps, and their U.S. citizen children may receive Food Stamps without any adverse effect on the immigration eligibility of a non-citizen parent.

- Housing benefits
- Child care services

See RUMORS on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Just spell my name right! *The World* is listening

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Public Radio International on Saipan

There's a saying in the public relations biz that goes: "I don't care what they say, as long as they spell my name right" implying that any exposure is good exposure for a public figure, business (or island).

A few weeks ago, a reporter from Public Radio International (PRI), producer of a popular show entitled "The World", contacted me for help in doing a radio piece on Saipan's garment factories, current economic situation and the effects of federalization. PRI distributes the show to 280 radio stations across the U.S., and reaches 2.5 million people each week. The BBC World Service, the show's co producer and distributor reaches millions more on every continent and in almost every language. *The World* is heard here on Saipan on KRNM-FM 88.1 and 89.1.

As I mentioned to the reporter prior to agreeing, "...I'm a bit wary of showing Saipan to media, as a result of a previous experience in which a producer came with a pre-existing notion of what things were like here, and then sought out evidence to support the story HE wanted to tell, while overlooking the concurrent realities and perspectives that really make up life here on the island. I regretted participating in the hatchet job he ended up doing on the island.

"However, as an optimist, I'm more than willing to entertain any and all new visitors, without being too jaded by prior experiences. I'd like to suggest, though, that you be prepared to erase all preconceived notions of Saipan and avoid viewing it from the perspective you may currently have. I can say, with a fair amount of confidence, that unless you've lived here and actually experienced the nuances of interaction, the reality of lifestyle, and day-to-day of life on Saipan, the sound bites and news shorts that visitors and lookers-in from the outside often receive cannot, and do not, begin to do justice to what things are really like.

Now, I imagine that your trips to Guam, Palau, and Yap are not about garment factories, so, I humbly ask that Saipan's report and resulting impression not be defined solely as "that garment factory place." Yes, there are lingering issues, but there is a rebranding that is taking place in this post-garment factory era that is at least worthy of mention, [and to which your piece may contribute.]"

I hosted the reporter while she was here, and to help with one segment of her coverage, took her around to some of the abandoned garment factories, and introduced her to representatives of both "sides" of the discussion (former garment worker//former factory manager) for interviews.

The report, which has since aired in two four-minute pieces (www.theworld.org Feb 15, Feb 19; others on Tinian, Guam, Yap, etc. may follow), gave a brief look into life and economics on Saipan. As is the nature of short media pieces, they can never convey as complete a story as is needed to fully appreciate the subtlety and nuance of a given situation/story. Life on Saipan offers a uniqueness that, as at least one subject pointed out in part 1, keeps people captivated, and wanting to return.

So while the piece was never intended as a tourism department's dream coverage, it is welcomed and appreciated, at least by me, for at least one reason that allows me to elaborate on a point from my previous two articles, the Invisible Game, Parts 1 & 2 [*Saipan Tribune*, Wednesday, Feb. 9, and Wednesday, Feb 16, 2010]

As you may recall, I suggested that there are certain beliefs you can adopt that can help you live life more successfully and get the most out of any situation. One that has helped me has been what I call:

The Law of the Unintended but Ever-Available Beneficial Consequence

Of course, that's just my long-winded description of an old concept you've heard before. Others refer to it as the silver lining in every cloud, or the lemonade you can mix when life gives you lemons, etc.

Shortly after the radio piece aired, I received an email from a woman from the mainland U.S. inquiring about coming to Saipan. I asked her how she heard about it and she replied:

"I was listening to a local radio station and they mentioned how bad the economy is on the island. I wasn't familiar with [Saipan] so I Googled it. From the pictures I viewed it looks beautiful, which is why I'm inquiring about accommodations for my Honeymoon thinking it would be a good value to explore."

On another occasion, just after some negative press and tragedy of several months back, I observed a similar increased interest in (which resulted in actual visits to) Saipan based on the mere mention of "Saipan" in popular press. The feedback was the same: "I'd never heard of it, so I looked it up and it looked great!"

Now, of course, I'm NOT advocating marketing Saipan based on scandal and negativity (others have done it). Nor am I saying we should compete based on cheap prices. (And, I have no numbers on how many people are turned off by negative press) I'm simply suggesting that you can't always say definitively that bad press is hurting tourism. These particular tourists overlooked the negative press, realizing that since virtually every place on earth has scandal, corruption, even violence occurring, that these occurrences don't define that place, and a great vacation can still be had. (Of course, there's an upper limit on the amount of scandal and violence a destination can sustain before it starts to have a truly negative effect on visits, but I don't think we're even close to that!)

Let the dialogue begin!

In other words, a belief that can help you is that there can be a silver lining in any type of situation. As it relates to media and tourism here on Saipan, the exposure can be the beginning of a discovery process and a dialogue that can help with the re-branding of Saipan provided we successfully convey Saipan's beauty and benefits to those who are seeking information. People are aware that media coverage is often limited in what it can depict, and so they often naturally seek out more encompassing information to obtain a more accurate and balanced picture.

So, as you follow the media coverage about this little island on any website or in any newspaper or magazine, do your part to balance out the perception that people are getting: write letters to the editor, post comments on blogs, refer others to other websites, etc. You'd be surprised just how much influence you can have in swaying public opinion. And just make sure they spell the name right!

And thanks to MaryKay Magistad for her interest and coverage of Saipan. To listen to the reports, visit the www.theworld.org's click on "Listen to the Show" and find the Feb. 15 and Feb. 19 episodes; other reports on Tinian, Guam, Yap, etc. may follow)

■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!—Walt

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Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan)*

Letter to the Editor

Re: Ambrose Bennett's take on Article XII

As informed as Mr. Bennett may be, stunning that he hasn't perused a U.S. federal appellate court decision declaring Article XII as constitutional. Therefore, please spare us your shallow, if not, hollow threat about the federalization of indigenous land. May I remind you, sir, we also know how to read and discern the truth from the apparent.

I perceive your viewpoint similar to other impostors and perpetrators who have flexed their muscles as though we're all ignoramus. Therefore, you're among participants in the perpetuation of the neocolonial relationships of dependency that "have been played out in rarefied circles...while far beneath them exists the other order, the ordinary people, who are busily and independently redefining their world in accordance with their perceptions of their own interests and of where the future lies for their children" and subsequent generations.

If you're one of those who maintain that our indigenous people live day to day, not really caring for the long-term benefits, are unaware of the elementary truth known by most native islanders: that they plan for generations for the continuity of their families and kin groups. We see in the "expanding into and rising from the depths of volcanic eruptions the future of these isles, our 'sea of islands.'" That future lies in the hands of our own people, not of those who would prescribe for us, get us forever dependent and indebted because they can see no way out."

Gradually, through our collective efforts we shall reclaim our ancestors' properties—land and sea—for we are the land, we are the vast Pacific Ocean. We are a part of Oceania far larger in size than the usual Western code forced upon us by sailors and hollow scholars. "We must (and we will) wake up to this ancient truth and together use it to overturn all hegemonic views that aim ultimately to confine us again, physically and psychologically, in the tiny spaces that we have resisted accepting as our sole appointed places and from which we have recently liberated ourselves. We must not allow anyone (impostors and perpetrators promoting dependency) to belittle us again and take away our freedom.

Furthermore, if you're such a hot constitutional scholar, then I ask: Did the U.S. Constitution include its indigenous peoples throughout states and territories? Are first principles, therefore, applicable in the NMI? Was the Covenant founded per the U.S. Constitution or was it premised on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, an inclusionary global policy on indigenous peoples?

Therefore, the pretense of warped equality you're advocating is riddled with fallacy. The protection of the indigenous people is the very essence of the federal appellate court's decision, no more, no less.

Beyond the physical aspect of land that is behind Article XII, these sacred ancestral lands didn't come to us gift-wrapped in "ownership" as defined by Western Codes, legal eagles and academe. Our ancestors founded on these sacred lands tour cultures since time immemorial. I am not prepared to listen to impostors and perpetrators for it would be a travesty to flung open the floodgates that would lead to marginalization, dispossession, alienation and total displacement of our indigenous people.

I support Article XII in view of its ancestral significance. I am equally wary of some of our very own who were displaced or would be rendered aliens by the blood quantum dictates in order to qualify for landownership. This issue can easily be resolved by predicating landownership to genealogy.

Screw the imposition of percentages. I seek harmony in granting to the sons and daughters of these isles what's rightfully theirs in order to retain and build a sense of pride in their cultural heritage. This is a must in the perpetuation of our peoplehood.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼73°	▲84° ▼72°

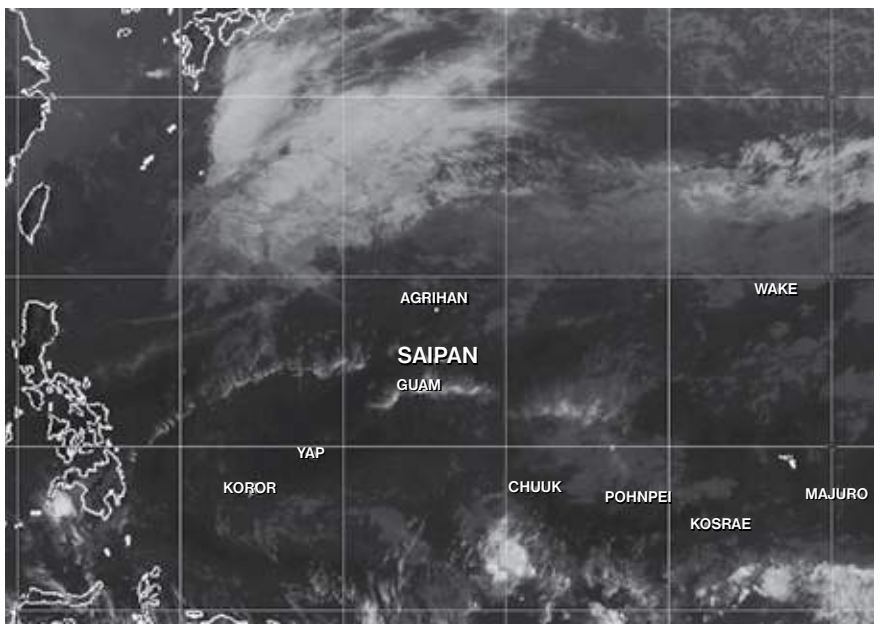
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
Palau	Sunny	▲90	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Majuro	Sunny	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼64
Beijing	Cloudy	▲62	▼31
Hong Kong	Showers	▲78	▼72
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼69
London	Showers	▲46	▼37
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲74	▼52
Miami	Rain	▲79	▼54
New York	Rain	▲45	▼35
Osaka	Sunny	▲65	▼44
Paris	Rain	▲47	▼43
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼46
Rome	Showers	▲58	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲51	▼38
San Francisco	Rain	▲59	▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼43
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼31

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Broken to overcast clouds and scattered showers associated with a developing low pressure area near 23N132E are north of a line that extends from 19N130E to 19N137E to 25N150E. A stationary front extends eastward from 18N139E past Wake Island to 20N170E then continues as a cold front northeastward to beyond 180 at 24N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles north of the boundary east of 150E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation near 3N151E to end near EQ173E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk are within 100 miles of a line from 5N151E to 2N151E and across Tarawa south of a line from 3N166E to 2N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
2:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:44 PM	2:14 AM
Thursday	2:48 PM	3:12 AM
Friday	3:53 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	4:57 PM	5:00 AM
Sunday	5:59 PM	5:49 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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The Year of the Endangered Tiger

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Jan. 20 ends the vacation part for the Year of the Tiger for many. For the whole morning since sunrise, a continuous and uninterrupted cacophony of crack-cracks and boom-booms echoed across the skyline of Shenyang as it ushered the first working day of a hoped-for year of prosperity and good fortune. The ferocity of the Tiger remains unabated as nitro-explosions echoed into the noon hour.

It was Saturday in China that follows sequential days rather than the cyclical one of our Gregorian calendar. We move some of our holidays to either Monday or Friday so as not to have the workweek interrupted by the weekend. The same principle holds true in China save that there is nothing sacrosanct about the Sabbath. The weekend is treated like a workweek if a holiday had been observed in the weekend. Thus, the Saturday weekday for the Tiger.

How endangered is the tiger specie is a question raised this year. Three subspecies vanished in the last six decades; the remaining six are well into extinction. Of the more than 100,000 tigers in 1900, there remain no more than 4,000 in the wild today. India's population doubled since the 1970s when efforts to protect the endangered specie began but there are no more sightings of tigers west of the Indus River though their kind roamed the Ottoman Empire.

China banned tiger products in 1993 but the commerce continues with the Siberian tiger fur a priced commodity in Manchuria. Yanbian's Hunchun hosts the Wildlife Conservation Service that monitors tigers in the wild in northeast Asia. The world's largest tiger park is in Harbin, and though it has reversed the roles of the watcher and the watched, where tourists are transported in caged buses so that they can observe the animals roam freely in the wild, the monetized hand of commerce has intruded when watchers are given the option to buy a live animal like chicken and ox are released to the tigers as fair game.

Tigers are predators that favor ungulates—hoofed animals, save that the chicken and the ox in Harbin are not creatures in the wild. Sovereign as the tiger is at the top of the food chain, it is known to feed on fellow predators like leopards and bear. Normally nocturnal, the Siberian sub-specie range in winter daytime for deer and birds of prey but there is nothing natural about the chicken and the ox!

Our current endangered specie by the same name of the manicured putt-putt grass offered a public apology for his seeming predatory behavior outside the connubial bed. Tiger Woods, of course, is only endangered to the degree that his lucrative commercial endorsements might be withdrawn and his charisma in the golf links might be consigned to oblivion. Awkwardly and anxiously judgmental and dismissive of Tiger, he has opened up a view of reality to which we partake, if only in guilt-ridden fantasies for many, or in a more radically reduced scale in actuality.

Continuing fascination with Tiger, and other known personalities like Edwards and Sanford, involves the unresolved questions on human sexuality highlighted during the '60s sexual revolution where the sole measure to faithfulness in marriage is sexual monogamy. This is particularly critical to Western Civilization with its priced traditions of chastity in fidelity, and celibacy in religion.

When being a "tiger in bed" is a metaphor only in the pages of brown paper wrapped magazines, or in the confines of "what two consenting adults do in the privacy of their bedroom" indifference, which has the same connotation as society's "don't ask, don't tell" prescription towards the specie that has recently decided to courageously come out of the closet, then it is time to recognize cultural cobwebs lingering in the unexamined nooks and crannies of our communal cortex!

As a beloved diplomat in the foreign service once commented, the difference betwixt walking denizens on 42nd St. (NYC's Garapan) and many suburban ladies is that the former ply their trade with stilettos while the other hang Gucci bags and wrap Dior neck scarves as they push strollers down the Mall. Extreme, perhaps, in what might just be self-justifying rationalization, but we do submit that the difference between a Don Juan/Fanny Hill and a *Huangdi/Gui Fei* is not of type and kind, but that while the former is gravely condemned in the West, the other is pleasantly celebrated in the East!

Self-appointed sovereigns ply the lanes of our school playgrounds and the hallways of our classrooms, those PSS labels as 'bullies.' They are in fact archaic nuisance, but we need to understand that they also flourish in the Petri glass of the classrooms of our reflexive making. Having learned only the militant Spartan mode of discipline, we manage lives and learning of students by fear and intimidation, of the allure of rewards and punishment more than encouragement of latent intelligence and motivation in following one's bliss. It is no wonder that our young learn to exert influence only through coercive means! Alas, bullies are not endangered tigers for they thrive even in our government halls and corporate boardrooms. At once, feared and charismatic, the tiger represents many of the qualities expected of sovereign lords and royalties whose extinction we may not need to mourn.

"Put a tiger in your tank" is a slogan that feeds into the progeny of the model T-Ford revolution. It is thus that Canada's crowded population above latitude 48 degrees is still devoid of any recognizable tiger on rails. We reported last summer our sojourn through America's slow rails and lifted GWB's endorsement of the Fast Rail Bill and Obama's funding of its fruition. That will take time. Meanwhile, China's CHC2, Taiwan's THSR, Korea's KTX, Japan's Shinkansen, Spain's Ave, UK's Eurostar, France's TGV, and even India's Super Specials have us eating dust. Germany's maglev model is seen in Munchen, and for those attending Shanghai's Expo 2010 starting May, they will find this tiger on rails a world-class treasure and pleasure.

This is the year of the endangered Tiger. With Perry Tenorio on the U.S. Tourism Board, we might even look at rails in the CNMI as well as make one of our islands to be a sanctuary for the Malay tiger specie. Just a wild thought!

The Marianas Monument: Guam vs CNMI

By AMBROSE BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is a James Madison Fellow, Fulbright-Hays Scholar to Mexico and former member of the CNMI State Board of Education.

Before I begin, this is a formal and public request to our U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to read for consideration in the Congressional Hearing on the Marianas Trench. This request is also supported by a plethora of CNMI voters.

It is obvious a battle between the indigenous people of the Marianas is brewing for control of the Visitor Center and the guardianship of the Marianas Trench, which has made this issue about money and power when it should be about doing the right thing. This hearing in Washington is the stage of this face-off between the CNMI and Guam but it is really a battle that should have never come to reality. The governor of Guam has been one of the most outspoken leaders within the Mariana Islands for more unity between the people and governments of Guam and the CNMI yet here we are in direct conflict. Why the conflict—the fact that there was never a single leadership to establish a Chamorro Nation lies at the very core of this phenomenon. The people of the Marianas have never been united as "one people," which has manifested into social and political challenges to unit and work together in today's world. This is a good example of why I have often stated we need more Social Scientist involved in our politics.

Every time the indigenous people of the Marianas have been offered an opportunity by fate to heal the old scars for reunification it ends up creating more enmity. When will this cycle end and who will make the first step to demonstrate true respect with a desire for a real symbiotic relationship between the CNMI and Guam? More often than not that decision power has been in the hands of the people on Guam but now for the first time it will be decided in Washington and hopefully in an "objective" process that reflects who really needs and deserves to have the Visitor Center.

But before I say more, I must say that I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo as I supported her and her late husband when I was a resident on Guam. I am also grateful for all the legislation she has proposed on the CNMI's behalf when we didn't have representation in Congress. She even sent me a letter of thanks and praise for the 1st Grade Social Study textbook on the Marianas that I wrote, which is why this is so difficult for me to say but it needs to be said.

I am extremely disappointed that she didn't work with the CNMI on the Visitor Center issue to resolve it "locally" in the spirit of " I nafa maulek", which means to work together for the good of everyone. Furthermore, the military build up on Guam has already made it very obvious that the CNMI and Guam MUST work together in a more symbiotic relationship and both governments should build on the many intangible benefits of the synergy that can be created in true symbiotic relationships.

It seems the humanistic expectation of mutual respect for the fellow Chamorros and Carolinians in NMI was tossed aside now that we can fend for ourselves in Congress. The respect that was gained by Congresswoman Bordallo when we were helpless is now being tested because respect in its truest sense is a reciprocal phenomenon and not a one-way street for those in power figuratively speaking. Congresswoman Bordallo had a great opportunity to reinforce the process for a more symbiotic relationship that has now turned into a complete conflict. Even though the conflict is on the legislative level it will still serve to contribute to more enmity among the local people of the Marianas when its obvious the leaders can't work together.

Guam already has more development than the people want with the military buildup and it truly defies common sense expectation for Guam not to "share" in the blessing of potential economic prosperity, especially when the local people on Guam are complaining about tooooo much development. The people of Guam are on overload with the military build up and the people of the CNMI are literally begging for help which is why I want to take this opportunity to humbly and respectfully ask Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo to seriously consider taking the "high road" on this issue by withdrawing her legislation for Guam and supporting the CNMI's quest for the Visitor Center in the Northern Islands. (For those opinion haters on Saipan don't be jealous of the N. Islands because tourist will still have to come to Saipan to get to the N. Islands)

It is a well-known fact that only a small number of citizens on Guam want the Visitor Center while the CNMI really needs the Visitor Center and federalization in the CNMI has created even more challenges for our economy that is already on life support literally. It is really commonsense as to where the Visitor Center should be given the fact that the NMI clearly needs the Visitor Center more than Guam, the NMI boarders most of the trench with more legal rights and the NMI is closer to the Trench for visits by tourists and scientists.

With all these facts of moral, ethical and even legal basis being consider in the decision there shouldn't be any reasonable doubt as to where the Visitor Center will be located. Should the Guam bill for the Visitor Center remain in contest with the CNMI's it is my humble and respectful request that the United States Congress seriously consider the facts and the wisdom offered in this statement in the best interest of who really needs and deserves the Visitor Center. The President has mandated that we must change from devoting extra accommodations to those who have to doing more to help those who have not which is exactly what must be done in this battle for the Visitor Center—help the CNMI, which is in desperate need of help. Like our president said in his State of the Union Address —"let's try a little common sense, it's a novelty concept" and its really common sense who should get the Visitor Center.

RUMORS

From Page 10

■ Energy assistance
■ Emergency disaster relief
■ Foster care and adoption assistance
■ Educational assistance, including Head Start, and aid for elementary, secondary and higher education
■ Job training programs
■ In-kind, community-based programs (examples include soup kitchens, crisis counseling and intervention and short-term shelter —such as the CNMI's Guma Esperanza)
■ Non-cash TANF benefits, such as subsidized child care
■ Earned cash benefits, such as Social Security payments, government pensions, veterans' benefits
■ Unemployment compensation (which the CNMI does not have)

A determining factor is whether the assistance is used for income maintenance (bad) or to avoid the need for on-going cash assistance for income maintenance (acceptable). Please note that many of these programs are not available in the CNMI.

Get help if you need it

Bottom Line: if you are a non-U.S. citizen who is qualified for WIC assistance, or other, similar forms of government aid, don't hesitate. It won't hurt your immigration situation, and it will improve your health, and your children's health. And that's what's important. As Dianne Esplin, the WIC Clinic Manager, says, "we'd love it if they'd come back."

The information contained in this is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,715.00 Down 17.70 (-0.37%)
HONG KONG	20,237.59 Down 139.68 (-0.69%)
JAKARTA	2,558.67 Down 5.59 (-0.22%)
TOKYO	10,280.33 Down 120.14 (-1.16%)
K. LUMPUR	1,266.25 Down 0.19 (-0.02%)
MANILA	3,011.27 Down 4.32 (-0.14%)
SINGAPORE	2,755.50 Down 1.96 (-0.07%)
SEOUL	1,618.21 Down 8.89 (-0.55%)
BANGKOK	706.31 Up 0.51 (0.07%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,383.38 -18.97
NASDAQ	2,242.03 -1.84
S&P	1,108.01 -1.16

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1119
British Pound	0.6448
Canadian Dollar	1.0431
Chinese Renminbi	6.8305
Euro	0.7348
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7618
Indian Rupee	46.2160
Indonesian Rupiah	9,315.0000
Japanese Yen	91.0100
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3990
New Zealand Dollar	1.4263
Philippine Peso	46.1900
Singapore Dollar	1.4080
South Korean Won	1,151.3500
Swiss Franc	1.0749
Taiwan Dollar	32.0490
Thailand Baht	33.1300

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Toyota faces federal, congressional probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal prosecutors have launched a criminal investigation into Toyota Motor Corp.'s safety problems and the Securities and Exchange Commission was probing what the automaker told investors, the company disclosed Monday. Newly released internal documents showed that Toyota officials visited with U.S. regulators years ago who "laughed and rolled their eyes in disbelief" over safety claims.

The twin developments created new public relations challenges for Toyota plus the prospects—however likely or unlikely—of hefty federal fines or even indictments against executives in the U.S. and Japan. They also complicate Toyota's ability to discuss details driving its recall of 8.5 million vehicles because anything executives say could be used against the company inside a courtroom.

Top Toyota executives were expected to testify at hearings Tuesday and Wednesday on Capitol Hill. One lawmaker said he believed Toyota misled owners about the repairs and relied upon a hastily-arranged study to reassure the public.

AP

In this photo made Feb. 18, 2010, Toyota employee Linda Patrick installs an accelerator into a new Camry in Georgetown, Ky.

In a new filing with the SEC, Toyota said it received the grand jury request from the Southern District of New York on Feb. 8 and got the SEC requests Friday.

It wasn't immediately clear what U.S. laws Toyota might have broken. A subpoena would specify why prosecutors sought company documents, but Toyota would not comment beyond its disclosure with the SEC. A spokeswoman with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York declined to comment, saying it does not confirm or deny its investigations as a matter of policy.

The government could be looking into product safety law violations or whether Toyota made false statements to a federal safety agency involving unintended acceleration or the Prius braking system, said Peter Henning, a law professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. The SEC is seeking documents related to unintended acceleration as well as to its disclosure policies and practices, Toyota said.

Legal experts said the fresh subpoenas could affect how Toyota executives respond to the questions from lawmakers.

Foreign CEO testimony a rare catch for Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress regularly hauls in U.S. chief executives for public interrogations, from tobacco CEOs claiming nicotine isn't addictive to New York bankers defending their bonuses. But this week brings a rare catch—the head of a foreign company.

Toyota President Akio Toyoda will appear Wednesday in front of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to explain safety problems that forced the world's top automaker to recall 8.5 million of its most popular cars and trucks.

Foreign executives, beyond the reach of congressional subpoenas, usually try to avoid hearings that are often as much about public shaming as improving the public good. Often, the task is left to underlings more familiar with Washington or the issues under investigation.

That Toyoda agreed to testify after initially resisting an invitation is proof of how deep Toyota's problems are. But the track record of the few foreign executives who have showed up on Capitol Hill illustrates the many pitfalls that Toyoda faces, and the lasting effects his performance could have on the company and his tenure.

"He will be in for a firestorm, but it is the honorable thing to do," said Mark Zupan, dean of the University of Rochester's business school. "It sends a big signal to actually show up on somebody else's home turf." Congress does not have the legal authority to compel citizens of foreign countries to testify, according to Graham Wilson, a political scientist at Boston University who studies politics and business. But Toyoda, under enormous pressure to answer how long his company knew about safety problems and whether it did enough to solve them, likely had little choice but to accept an invitation from the committee last week.

Democratic jobs bill advances past GOP filibuster

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan jobs bill cleared a GOP filibuster on Monday with critical momentum provided by the Senate's newest Republican, Scott Brown of Massachusetts.

The 62-30 tally to advance the measure to a final vote on Wednesday gives both President Barack Obama and Capitol Hill Democrats a much-needed victory—even though the measure in question is likely to have only a modest boost on hiring.

Brown and four other Republicans broke with GOP leaders to advance the measure. Most other Republicans opposed the bill because Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada stripped out provisions they had sought and wouldn't allow them to try to restore them.

The bill featured four provisions that enjoyed sweeping bipartisan support, including a measure exempting businesses hiring the unemployed from Social Security payroll taxes through December and giving them another $1,000 credit if new workers stay on the job a full year.

Bank of America hires 2 former Merrill executives

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—It's a sign of the changing times at Bank of America: Two Merrill Lynch executives who fled the company are back.

Sam Chapin and Todd Kaplan are returning to serve as executive vice chairmen of its global banking operations, Bank of America Corp. said Monday. The two investment bankers were among the many senior Merrill Lynch executives who left after Bank of America agreed to buy Merrill Lynch in September 2008.

Their return is a sign of rebuilding at Bank of America's investment banking division.

"These guys are coming back because they can," said Gary Townsend, president of private investment group Hill-Townsend Capital Inc.

They are also rejoining the Charlotte, N.C.-based bank after it repaid a $45 billion government loan—a repayment that relieved Bank of America of restrictions on how much it could pay executives like Chapin and Kaplan.

The pair have a long history with Merrill Lynch, which was purchased by Bank of America in January 2009. Chapin spent 26 years with Merrill, serving as a vice chairman and member of the executive client coverage group from 2003 to 2009.

Kaplan logged 22 years at Merrill, where he was in charge of the global principal investments unit. He most recently served as the investment banking head at Citadel Investment Group.

The two men are returning to a somewhat different company, as the bank has gone through a series of changes over the past year.

The bank faced several regulatory investigations into the Merrill Lynch acquisition, including federal and state demands for information about the billions of dollars in bonuses paid to Merrill Lynch employees just before the deal was sealed.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM names board member Girsky vice chairman

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. said Monday it has named board member Stephen J. Girsky vice chairman of corporate strategy and business development. The promotion likely means an even bigger role for Girsky, 47, a longtime Wall Street auto analyst who was named to GM's board of directors last July representing the United Auto Workers union. Chairman and CEO Ed Whitacre—who was an auto industry newcomer when he joined GM last summer—has said he relies heavily on Girsky for advice. "Steve brings a depth of experience to this position that will serve the company well as we continue with our restructuring efforts," Whitacre said in a statement. "He is a trusted adviser who has made a major contribution through the company's transition."

Study: 2010 big employer health costs rise 6.5 pct

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A new study says health care costs for large employers will rise more than 6 percent this year, and more companies are thinking about revamping their benefits. The study from benefits consultant Towers Watson says this year's increase in the cost companies pay to administer health plans and pay claims is down slightly from 2009's 7 percent hike. A total of 83 percent of companies surveyed say they have either revamped their health care strategy or expect to do so in the next two years. This can mean switching plan designs or an increasing employee payments among other big changes.

Stocks close lower on caution about economy

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market paused from a four-day rally Monday and closed modestly lower after big consumer companies gave a cautious outlook for economic growth. The market, which has advanced on stronger economic signs, fluctuated after Lowe's Cos. and Campbell Soup Co. reported higher earnings but reminded investors that a recovery among consumers is expected to be slow. Stocks drew some support from news that oil field services company Schlumberger Ltd. agreed to buy Smith International Inc. "Corporate America is being cautious with their earnings predictions," said Roy Williams, CEO at Prestige Wealth Management Group. A recovery in consumer spending hasn't happened as fast as executives have hoped, he said. Trading was also fragmented as investors hunted for deals following last week's big rally. The Dow Jones industrial average posted its best weekly gain since November on strong earnings and economic reports.

Nation

NYC terror suspect admits plot and pleads guilty

NEW YORK (AP)—A former airport shuttle driver accused of buying beauty supplies to make bombs for an attack on New York City subways pleaded guilty Monday, admitting he agreed to conduct an al-Qaida-led "martyrdom plan" because of U.S. involvement in his native Afghanistan.

Najibullah Zazi told a judge the terror network recruited him to be a suicide bomber in New York, where he went to high school and once worked a coffee car just blocks from the World Trade Center site.

"I would sacrifice myself to bring attention to what the U.S. military was doing to civilians in Afghanistan," Zazi said in court.

The Associated Press learned earlier this month that the jailed Zazi had recently volunteered information about the bomb plot in the first step toward a plea deal. His cooperation suggests prosecutors hope to expand the case and bring charges against other suspects in one of the most serious terrorism threats in the U.S. since Sept. 11, 2001.

AP

In this courtroom sketch shows defendant Najibullah Zazi, right, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Knox, left, William Stampur, defense attorney, center, stand before U.S. District Judge Raymond Dearie inside federal court in the Brooklyn borough of New York on Monday, Feb. 22, 2010.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the terror investigation is ongoing.

Zazi, 25, pleaded guilty to conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction, conspiring to commit murder in a foreign country and providing material support for a terrorist organization. He faces a life prison sentence without parole at a sentencing in June.

Zazi said in court he went to Pakistan in 2008 to join the Taliban and fight against the U.S. military but was recruited by the terrorist network and went into a training camp in Warziristan, a region of Pakistan where al-Qaida is known to operate. Zazi said he received weapons training at the camp and later learned about explosives.

Zazi also said in court that he had been in contact with an al-Qaida leader while in Pakistan but did not identify the person.

"We were recruited by al-Qaida ... to go the United States in a martyrdom plan," he said.

The Pakistan Embassy in Washington declined to comment on Zazi's case.

Zazi admitted building homemade explosives with beauty supplies purchased in the Denver suburbs and cooked up in a Colorado hotel room. He then drove the materials to New York just before the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Outlook no brighter for Obama's new health plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Starting over on health care, President Barack Obama knows his chances aren't looking much more promising. A year after he called for a far-reaching overhaul, Obama unveiled his most detailed plan yet on Monday. Realistically, he's just hoping to win a big enough slice to silence the talk of a failing presidency.

The 10-year, $1 trillion plan, like the current Democratic version in the Senate, would bring health insurance to more than 31 million Americans who now lack it. Government insurance wouldn't be included, a problem for Democratic progressives. Republicans are skeptical about where the money would come from—and about Obama's claim that the plan wouldn't raise the federal deficit.

Striking out in one fresh direction that should have wide appeal, Obama would give federal regulators new powers over the insurance industry, a reaction to a rash of double-digit premium hikes that have infuriated policy holders in California and other states.

The plan is supposed to be the starting point for Obama's televised, bipartisan health care summit Thursday—a new beginning after a year of wrangling and letting Congress take the lead. Yet Republicans were quick to dismiss it as a meld of two Democratic bills the public doesn't want. Democrats, while reaffirming their commitment to major changes, reacted cautiously, mindful that Obama is asking them to stake their political fortunes in the fall elections.

In the end, Americans who have listened to a year of talk about big changes in their health care, may see much smaller changes, if any. The president is likely to have to settle for much less than he wants—small-bore legislation that would smooth the rough edges of today's system but stop well short of coverage for nearly everyone.

The president weighs in

Highlights of the compromise between the House and Senate health care reform bills that President Barack Obama has put forward, which generally follows the Senate bill with changes to address House leaders' concerns:

	House Affordable Health Care for America Act	Senate Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	Obama The President's Proposal (Changes from Senate bill)
Cost (10-year estimates)	• $1.06 trillion	• $871 billion	• Almost $1 trillion
Who's covered	• About 96 percent of legal residents under age 65	• About 94 percent of legal residents under age 65	
How it's paid for	• Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid; surtax on couples with incomes above $1 million, singles above $500,000; fees on medical device makers; limits on contributions to flexible spending accounts; noncompliance penalties	• Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid; increase in Medicare payroll tax for high-income workers; taxes on high-cost insurance; 10 percent sales tax on tanning salons; fees on drug companies, device makers, insurers; fines on employers whose workers get federal subsidies to help pay premiums, noncompliance penalties	• Scales back tax on high-cost plans and delays effective date until 2018; ups Medicare payroll tax for high-income earners; adds measures for cutting down waste, fraud and abuse
Requirements for individuals	• Almost everyone must have coverage; penalty of 2.5 percent of modified adjusted gross income for noncompliance; hardship waivers	• Almost everyone must have coverage, phased-in $750 per person penalty for noncompliance; hardship waivers	• Lowers ceiling for phased-in penalty for noncompliance to $695
Requirements for employers	• Must provide insurance or face penalty of 8 percent of payroll; those with payrolls under $500,000 are exempt; those with 10 or fewer workers get tax credits	• No requirement; firms with more than 50 workers that do not offer insurance must pay $750 fine per worker if employees get government subsidies to help pay premiums	• Changes formula for calculating fine per worker if employees get government subsidies to help pay premiums
Subsidies to buy coverage	• Up to 400 percent of poverty level	• Up to 400 percent of poverty level; tax credits for small employers	• Raises subsidies; strips out special Medicaid deals made with certain states (Nebraska, Louisiana), instead providing help to all states in meeting increased Medicaid costs, if needed
Benefit package	• Must include essential benefits (hospitalization, doctor visits, drugs, other services) proposed by a committee	• Sets four benefit categories; all plans would have to include basic benefits	
Restrictions on insurance companies	• Starting in 2013, no denial of coverage or higher premiums for pre-existing conditions; no higher premiums based on gender; limits on premiums based on age	• Starting in 2014, no denial of coverage or higher premiums for pre-existing conditions; no higher premiums based on gender; limits on premiums based on age or family size; starting upon enactment of law, no lifetime caps; children up to 26 can stay on parents' plan	• Establishes government rate board to oversee insurance policy rate increases
Drugs	• Phases out gap in Medicare drug coverage by 2013; health and human services secretary to negotiate drug prices for Medicare recipients; grants 12 years of market protection to some high-tech drugs	• Drug companies contribute $80 billion over 10 years to limit gap in Medicare prescription drug coverage; grants 12 years of market protection to some high-tech drugs	• Phases out gap in Medicare drug coverage – the "donut hole" by 2020
Public option (new government-sponsored plan)	• Yes; new public plan available through insurance exchange would be set up and run by health and human services secretary	• No; would set up state-based insurance exchanges, which would offer plans through private insurers, one of which would have to operate on a nonprofit basis	
Long-term care insurance	• New voluntary program to help people avoid nursing homes	• New voluntary program to help people avoid nursing homes	
Expansion of Medicaid (program for the poor)	• Expanded to include all those with incomes up to 150 percent of poverty level	• Eligibility levels standardized to 133 percent of poverty level; now eligibility varies by state	
Community health centers	• Raises funding by $12 billion	• Raises funding by $7 billion	• Raises funding by $11 billion
Abortion	• Public plan and federally-subsidized private plans offered in the exchange could not cover abortion	• Tries to keep a strict separation between taxpayer funds and private premiums that would pay for abortions	

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Source: White House, Kaiser Family Foundation, Congress Daily, Reuters, AP

Graphic: Phil Cant

Md. mom convicted of killing kids found in freezer

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP)—A Maryland woman who adopted three children despite a troubled past was convicted Monday of murdering two of the girls, whose bodies were stored in a freezer as the woman continued collecting payments meant to help with their care.

Renee Bowman, 44, kept the bodies of the two young girls on ice for months while she continued to collect subsidies paid to parents who adopt special-needs children in the District of Columbia, receiving a total of about $150,000 since adopting the girls.

The bodies were found after the third daughter escaped by jumping out a window. The girl, now 9 and living with new foster parents, testified in the murder trial last week about the abuse she and her sisters endured—being beaten with a baseball bat and shoes and choked until they lost consciousness.

The girl's older sisters, Minnet and Jasmine Bowman, were both younger than 10 when they died, though authorities were never able to determine exactly when the murders occurred. Nobody knew they were missing, and there are no records the children were ever enrolled in school. Prosecutors said Bowman killed them while the family was living in Rockville and took the freezer with her when the family moved first to Charles County and later to Lusby, in Calvert County.

Former VP Cheney hospitalized, resting comfortably

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former vice president Dick Cheney was hospitalized after experiencing chest pains Monday, an aide said.

Cheney assistant Peter Long issued a statement that the 69-year-old Cheney was resting comfortably and his doctors were evaluating the situation.

Cheney has a history of heart problems and has a pacemaker.

In 2008, doctors restored a normal rhythm to his heart with an electric shock. It was the second time in less than a year that Cheney had experienced and been treated for an atrial fibrillation, an abnormal rhythm involving the upper chambers of the heart.

Cheney has had four heart attacks, starting when he was 37. He has had quadruple bypass surgery and two artery-clearing angioplasties. In 2001, he had a special pacemaker implanted in his chest. The pacemaker's battery was replaced last year, and then the entire device was replaced.

Cheney

The former vice president has kept a high profile since leaving the White House. He has sparred with the Obama administration over plans to close the U.S. detention facility for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and hold the trials of several high-profile detainees in civilian courts rather than military tribunals.

He made a surprise appearance last week at the Conservative Political Action Conference, where he accompanied his daughter Liz. He was greeted with chants of "Run, Dick, Run," but said "I am not going to do it."

ACROSS THE NATION

Small plane makes safe landing on I-80 near Reno

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—A deputy fire chief found an opening in traffic and slipped his single-engine plane into the gap after engine trouble forced him to land Monday on Interstate 80 near Reno. The Cessna 172 suffered tail and rudder damage, but pilot Joseph DuRousseau Jr. and three passengers on their way home from a humanitarian mission in Mexico were unhurt, Nevada State Trooper Chuck Allen said. He said there were no other injuries and did not appear to be any damage to vehicles. "He apparently suffered some mechanical difficulties and essentially made an emergency landing on westbound I-80," Allen told The Associated Press shortly after the plane touched down about 10:20 a.m. a few miles north of Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Cruise line: 300 sick aboard ship in Caribbean

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—A cruise line says about 300 guests have fallen ill with a stomach ailment aboard a cruise to the Caribbean that departed from South Carolina. Celebrity Cruise spokeswoman Cynthia Martinez said Monday night that passengers aboard the Mercury began complaining a day earlier of upset stomachs, vomiting and diarrhea. Martinez said a total of around 1,800 people are aboard. The ship left Charleston on Feb. 15. She said the ship's medical facilities were overwhelmed. Another doctor and nurse came aboard in St. Kitts in the British Virgin Islands. The ship made four other stops in the Caribbean.

Video, prints implicate Texas church fire suspects

TYLER, Texas (AP)—Investigators used security videotapes and shoe prints to help them link two men to two church fires in Texas, according to arrest warrant affidavits released Monday. Jason Robert Bourque, 19, and Daniel George McAllister, 21, were arrested and charged Sunday with a single felony arson in the torching of the Dover Baptist Church near Tyler in rural Smith County. They were arraigned Monday before Judge Christi Kennedy at the state district court in Tyler, about 90 miles east of Dallas. If convicted, Bourque and McAllister could face life in prison. Bond is set at $10 million apiece.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian to stand trial over hotel bombings

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian militant flew to Saudi Arabia to raise money to finance suicide attacks on two Jakarta hotels that killed seven and injured more than 50, prosecutors will allege in court Tuesday. According to an indictment seen by The Associated Press, prosecutors say 25-year-old Mohammad Gabriel Abdul Rahman had ties to alleged regional terrorist mastermind Noordin Top and tried to raise money to fund the July 17, 2009, bombings at the J.W. Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels. Rahman, who has been charged with violating the country's Anti-Terror Law, goes on trial Tuesday at the South Jakarta District Court. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. Rahman has denied any involvement in the bombings.

23 suspects to stand trial in China for CCTV fire

BEIJING (AP)—Twenty-three people will go on trial this week for alleged involvement in a deadly fire triggered by an illegal fireworks display that gutted a hotel at the new headquarters of China's main television network last year, a court official said Monday. The trial follows a high-level government investigation into the Feb. 9, 2009, blaze at China Central Television's striking new downtown Beijing complex that killed one firefighter and injured eight others. The case will be heard starting Tuesday at the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate Court, a duty officer at the court said. He refused to give his name like many Chinese officials.

Australia fights terrorism with tough visa checks

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia intends to impose tougher visa checks on people from countries considered at high risk for terrorism as part of a 69 million Australian dollar ($62 million) counterterrorism plan released Tuesday. The new visa requirements, which include mandatory collection of fingerprints and facial imaging data for visa applicants from 10 countries, would help keep terrorists from evading detection, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said in releasing the government's counterterrorism "white paper" in Canberra. "Terrorism has become a persistent and permanent feature of Australia's security environment," Rudd said. "Prior to the rise of jihadist terorrism, Australia was not a specific target. Now Australia is such a target."

Finally, a glimmer of hope for US in Afghan war

KABUL (AP)—The arrests of key Taliban leaders in Pakistan and slow but steady progress on the battlefield of Helmand province have offered the first flicker of hope in years that the U.S. and its allies may be able to check the rise of an insurgency that seemed unstoppable only a few months ago.

That's a long way from victory—a word that has fallen out of favor within a U.S. military keenly aware of the complexity of Afghanistan and the dangers of elevated expectations among a war-weary public in the United States and Europe.

However, the events of the last few weeks suggest that failure isn't inevitable either.

For the first time in four years, the Taliban and their allies are on the defensive. Key leaders are in Pakistani custody, insurgents on the verge of losing their supply and logistical base in the Helmand town of Marjah and they face an expected showdown in the months ahead around their spiritual birthplace of Kandahar.

"The situation remains serious but is no longer deteriorating," Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters at the Pentagon on Monday.

If all goes well, pressure will mount on the Taliban and their allies to consider a negotiated settlement—which the top NATO commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal and others believe is the only way to end the conflict.

The process won't be quick. The Taliban have shown great resiliency, rebounding from more serious setbacks including the loss of power in the U.S.-led invasion of 2001.

Civilian casualties, such as the 21 people said to have been killed Sunday in a misguided NATO airstrike, still fuel bitterness among Afghans despite the alliance's efforts to curb its own firepower. Continuing deaths at the hands of foreign soldiers build resentment among Afghans—even though the U.N. says the Taliban are responsible for the majority of civilian casualties.

Gen. David Petreaus, who oversees the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, said last weekend that the ongoing offensive in Helmand province is only the beginning of a campaign expected last up to 18 months—testing the mettle of an U.S. military strained by nearly nine years of war and the patience of an American public facing their own severe economic and political challenges.

Success is by no means assured—even if recent developments favor the allies. Afghanistan's government remains weak, its army and police years away from functioning effectively on their own.

Battered or not, the Taliban have proven nimble in the past. They have expanded into the north, stretching NATO forces and attacking supply lines coming south from the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. Over the last six months, they have struck in the heart of Kabul, a capital that has remained far more secure than Baghdad.

If the Taliban lose their bases in Helmand, they could regroup to the north in Uruzgan province, especially if the Dutch pull out their forces from that area this year as expected and no other country rushes in forces to fill the breach.

Nevertheless, the offensive around Marjah could prove to be a game changer if NATO can exploit its gains, establish a reasonably effective local Afghan administration and convince the people there that the allies have no intention of ceding vast areas of the country to the militants.

AP

U.S. Sgt. U.S. Ryan Mack, 25, from Defiance, Ohio, spotter at left, talks at the radio as Spc. Thomas Leuthold, 20, from Hills, Minn. sniper takes aim, as all of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, faces Taliban insurgents during a firefight in the Badula Qulp area, West of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010.

Mullen: 'steady progress' in fight for Afghan town

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's top defense leaders said Monday that U.S.-led forces were making steady progress in their efforts in a Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan but faced stiffer resistance than expected and the operation would take longer than hoped.

Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters at the Pentagon the efforts against the Taliban were "messy" and "incredibly wasteful," as was war in general. "But that doesn't mean it's not worth the cost."

Mullen said the battle and the broader war can be won with the proper resources and strategy.

"As you've all been seeing, we're making steady, if perhaps a bit slower than anticipated, progress," Mullen said.

Mullen also expressed regret for a NATO airstrike that killed at least 21 Afghan civilians. It was the third coalition strike this month to kill noncombatants and drew a sharp rebuke from Afghanistan's government about endangering civilians.

At the same briefing, Defense Secretary Robert Gates defended the top commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, saying McChrystal keenly understands the need to do the utmost to avoid civilian casualties and has made that a top priority.

"I have confidence in his judgment," Gates said.

For 10 days, U.S. and Afghan troops have been fighting holdout Taliban forces in an effort to secure the southern town of Marjah in Helmand province.

"The situation remains serious but is no longer deteriorating," Gates said.

On a related subject, Gates said recent arrests of high-level Taliban fighters by Pakistan marks "real progress" by the Islamabad government and "another positive indication" of its commitment to stabilizing its border with Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, Pakistani authorities arrested the No. 2 Afghan Taliban leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi. Also arrested are a pair of Taliban "shadow governors" from two Afghan provinces and several other militant suspects linked to al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Gates told reporters that "what we are seeing is the importance of operations on both sides of the border."

Pentagon paints grim picture of Taiwan air defense

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The Pentagon has painted a grim picture of Taiwan's air defense capabilities, saying that many of the island's 400 combat aircraft would not be available to help withstand an attack from rival China.

The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency report obtained Monday by The Associated Press says "far fewer of these are operationally capable," an unusually strong indictment of Taiwanese defense readiness.

By pointing out the island's shortcomings, the report could provide justification for Washington to grant a Taiwanese request for relatively advanced F-16 jet fighters, a key element in its arms procurement wish list.

Late last month, the Obama administration notified Congress it was making $6.4 billion in weapons available to Taiwan, including missiles, Black Hawk helicopters, information distribution systems and two Osprey Class Mine Hunting Ships.

While the package deferred judgment on the F-16s—and on a design plan for diesel submarines also coveted by Taiwan—it still prompted a furious reaction from Beijing, which regards Taiwan as part of its territory 60 years after the sides split amid civil war.

The U.S. says the F-16 request remains under study.

China resents all U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, seeing them as interference in its internal affairs.

The DIA report, dated Jan. 21, says Taiwan's 60 U.S.-made F-5 fighters have reached the end of their operational service, and its 126 locally produced Indigenous Defense Fighter aircraft lack "the capability for sustained sorties."

Taiwan's 56 French-made Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets, the report says, "are technologically advanced, but they require frequent, expensive maintenance that adversely affects their operational readiness rate."

The report notes some of Taiwan's 146 F-16 A/Bs may receive improvements focusing on avionics and combat effectiveness, but says "the extent of the upgrades, and timing and quantity of affected aircraft is currently unknown."

Taiwan's new F-16 request is for the C/D model of the plane, which is considered a substantial improvement on the A/Bs.

Filipino militant's killing cripples Abu Sayyaf

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A young, brash militant who gained notoriety after posing for cameras with three Red Cross hostages became the latest casualty of U.S.-backed Philippine military assaults that have slowly eliminated the country's most wanted terrorist suspects.

Albader Parad is best remembered as head of a faction of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group who demanded a ransom last year for the release of the Red Cross workers — a Swiss, an Italian and a Filipino. All three were freed after months in jungle captivity despite threats to behead them.

A special operations platoon on Sunday crawled within 30 yards (meters) of a forest hut on southern Jolo Island and opened fire after receiving intelligence that Parad and senior leader Umbra Jumdail were meeting, military officials said.

At the end of the hourlong gunfight, Parad and five other militants, including Jumdail's brother, lay dead. Parad's body was later identified by four civilians, said regional military commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino. A marine also was killed.

"This will be a big blow to the Abu Sayyaf," Dolorfino said Monday. "He was the most visible among the leaders. The fear of the people for the Abu Sayyaf is represented by the face of Albader, which always comes out in newspapers."

The Abu Sayyaf is blamed for the country's worst bomb attacks, kidnapping sprees and for beheading some of its hostages during the last two decades.

World

Top US general: US has Plan B for slower Iraq exit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top U.S. general in Iraq said Monday he could slow the exit of U.S. combat forces this year if Iraq's politics are chaotic following elections this spring. Gen. Ray Odierno said there are no signs that will be necessary, but he says he has a Plan B and told his superiors about it during Washington meetings over the past week.

The U.S. has about 96,000 troops in Iraq nearly seven years after the American-led invasion that overthrew dictator Saddam Hussein. That's the lowest number of American forces in the country since the invasion.

Under an agreement negotiated under former President George W. Bush, all combat troops are to leave the country by Aug. 31 although some 50,000 will remain behind to help train Iraqi security forces.

The remaining support troops are to be gone by the end of 2011.

"If you ask me today, I'm fully committed and that's the right course of action," Odierno told reporters at the Pentagon.

However, he noted earlier, "if something happens" between now and late spring—such as problems with the formation of the new Iraqi government following elections next month—the U.S. could slow down the rate of deployments. The U.S. also could speed up the withdrawal if necessary, he said.

AP

Gen. Raymond Odierno, the top U.S. general in Iraq, gestures during a briefing at the Pentagon, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010.

When asked whether gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military, Odierno said yes, "as long as we are still able to fight our wars."

His comment was among the first to come from a senior military leader currently leading troops in battle since the Pentagon announced earlier this month that it will study the issue.

Odierno said he hadn't had much time to think about the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and said it has been a "non-issue" to him.

"That doesn't mean it's right," he said. "All I'm saying is as I've implemented this war now for seven-years, we've been able to get forces out that are ready and prepared to conduct operations.

"My opinion is everyone should be allowed to serve, as long as we're able to fight our wars and we're able to have forces that are capable of doing whatever they are asked to do," he said.

Homeless Haitians: aid halted to force them out

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Homeless victims of Haiti's earthquake said Monday that police are halting deliveries of food and water to try to force them to leave their camp on the grounds of the prime minister's office.

Police padlocked the main gate to the hillside camp, where about 2,500 homeless people live under bed sheets and tarps propped on sticks on the sloping hill leading to the office. Stinking garbage with swarms of flies was being allowed to pile up and portable latrines were filled, camp residents complained.

Witnesses said police beat 22-year-old Dalida Jeanty after she picked up a broom to sweep around her tent. "They called her and she did not come so they beat her," said her cousin, Alix Jeanty.

He was among the friends and relatives who carried the woman down the hill, where U.N. peacekeepers from Chile and India arranged for her to be taken to the hospital.

A police officer guarding the gate to the prime minister's office refused to give his name or comment on the alleged beating. Nor would he discuss accusations they have been turning away trucks carrying food and water for the past 10 days.

Calls to the Information Ministry on Monday were unanswered, as was an e-mail to the prime minister's chief aide.

"We've been here for a month and we were being treated well, but for the past two weeks we have been mistreated," said Markinson Midey, a 22-year-old student. "Anytime they bring food or water, the police make the trucks leave."

Midey and other residents, some of them shouting angrily and banging pans when they saw reporters, said they believe the government wants to make the camp conditions so bad that people will be forced to leave, even though they have nowhere else to go.

After reporters arrived, police opened the gate they'd locked.

UK oil exploration firm starts Falklands drilling

LONDON (AP)—A British oil exploration company said Monday it began drilling near the Falkland Islands, a development that could worsen tensions between Britain and Argentina, which fought a war over the disputed islands nearly three decades ago.

Desire Petroleum PLC said it started drilling for oil about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the disputed Falkland Islands, despite strong opposition from Argentina. The country claims the south Atlantic islands as its own and calls them Las Malvinas.

"The well is being drilled to an estimated target depth of circa 3,500 meters (11,500 feet)," the company said in a statement. "Drilling operations are expected to take approximately 30 days."

Argentina lost a seven-week war over the islands to Britain in 1982 and the two countries have since pledged to resolve their differences peacefully. But moves to begin exploiting what could be lucrative reserves of oil and gas around the islands have sent tensions soaring.

Tension in the Falkland Islands
The war between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands ended almost 28 years ago, but tensions over the sovereignty of the islands remain.
• 4,700 sq. mi. (12,000 sq. km); two large islands, about 200 smaller ones
West Falkland
East Falkland
Darwin
Stanley
Goose Green
Falkland Sound
25 miles
25 km
Atlantic Ocean
Argentina
Looking back
1690 British first land
1832 Sovereignty fight after Britain expels Argentine settlers
1966 U.N. asks Britain and Argentina to begin negotiations
1982 Argentina invades islands; Britain wins Falklands War in 10 weeks
1992 Argentina, Britain resume diplomatic relations
2010 Argentina imposes new controls on shipping to the Falkland Islands in a growing oil dispute with Britain
Source: ESRI, BBC
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2010 MCT

The dispute over the Falklands dates back to the 19th century, when the islands were seized by the British. Argentina has sought their return ever since, invading in April 1982 and holding them until June, when British forces retook the territory.

Full diplomatic relations were restored in 1990 and both sides have since largely agreed to disagree on the issue of sovereignty. But anger over the issue still lingers and has been exacerbated by the prospect that Argentina could lose out on mineral wealth discovered offshore.

Archaeologist sees proof for Bible in ancient wall

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli archaeologist said Monday that ancient fortifications recently excavated in Jerusalem date back 3,000 years to the time of King Solomon and support the biblical narrative about the era.

If the age of the wall is correct, the finding would be an indication that Jerusalem was home to a strong central government that had the resources and manpower needed to build massive fortifications in the 10th century B.C.

That's a key point of dispute among scholars, because it would match the Bible's account that the Hebrew kings David and Solomon ruled from Jerusalem around that time.

While some Holy Land archaeologists support that version of history—including the archaeologist behind the dig, Eilat Mazar—others posit that David's monarchy was largely mythical and that there was no strong government to speak of in that era.

Speaking to reporters at the site Monday, Mazar, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, called her find "the most significant construction we have from First Temple days in Israel."

"It means that at that time, the 10th century, in Jerusalem there was a regime capable of carrying out such construction," she said.

Based on what she believes to be the age of the fortifications and their location, she suggested it was built by Solomon, David's son, and mentioned in the Book of Kings.

The fortifications, including a monumental gatehouse and a 77-yard (70-meter) long section of an ancient wall, are located just outside the present-day walls of Jerusalem's Old City, next to the holy compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. According to the Old Testament, it was Solomon who built the first Jewish Temple on the site.

That temple was destroyed by Babylonians, rebuilt, renovated by King Herod 2,000 years ago and then destroyed again by Roman legions in 70 A.D. The compound now houses two important Islamic buildings, the golden-capped Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa mosque.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran to build enrichment sites inside mountains

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Monday it plans to build two new uranium enrichment facilities deep inside mountains to protect them from attack, a new challenge to Western powers trying to curb Tehran's nuclear program for fear it is aimed at making weapons. Ali Akbar Salehi, who is also Iran's vice president, said Tehran intends to use its more advanced centrifuges at the new sites, a decision that could add to growing concerns in the West over Tehran's program because the technology would allow Iran to accelerate the pace of its program. The two plants are among 10 industrial scale uranium enrichment facilities Iran approved the construction of in November, a dramatic expansion of the program in defiance of U.N. demands it halt enrichment.

Over 50 Turkish commanders held over coup plot

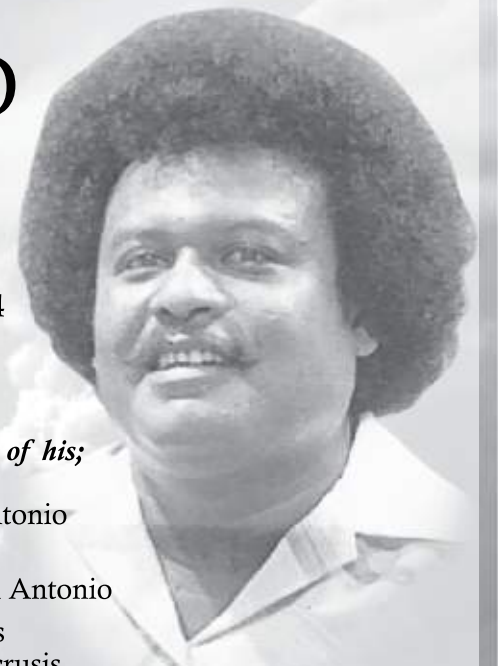
ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Once they were untouchable. Some were members of Turkey's elite military class known as "pashas," a title of respect harking back to Ottoman times. For decades, Turkey's senior officers, self-appointed guardians of the country's secular tradition, called the shots. But Monday, the balance of power in this EU candidate appeared to have undergone a major shift. Turkish police detained 52 military commanders for allegedly planning to blow up mosques in order to trigger a military takeover and overthrow the Islamic-oriented government. The detentions showed that the elected government is trying to take the upper hand against the military, which has ousted four governments since 1960 and held influence since Mustafa Kemal Ataturk created the secular republic from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

Ivory Coast PM: New government to be announced

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Ivory Coast's prime minister said he will announce the composition of the country's new government within 24 hours, a move that could bring an end to a week of violent protests sparked by the president's dissolution of the former government. After a day of marathon meetings between the two sides, Prime Minister Guillaume Soro told reporters Monday that the country's "political players" had come to an agreement and that he planned to announce the details of the new government on Wednesday morning. His announcement came as at least two more protesters died Monday when an opposition demonstration turned violent, deepening the political crisis that has gripped this nation of 20 million since its government was summarily disbanded by President Laurent Gbagbo earlier this month.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FERNANDO BERNARD ANTONIO



was born to life on August 28, 1944
and was called to his eternal rest
on February 20, 2010

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his;

Wife : Victoria Belau Antonio
Children : Imelda Antonio
Dewey Rengechel Antonio
Grandchildren : Adam A. Palacios
Brendon A. Villacrusis

He is additionally survived by his sister, brother & sister-in-law, aunts & uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00pm at San Antonio Church and followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

On Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to his residence.

Viewing and last respects will be at San Antonio Church beginning at 9:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Victoria Belau Antonio
Children & Families

Campus Life

Obama wants education benchmarks to meet higher standard

By NICK ANDERSON
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—President Obama will seek to raise academic standards across the country by requiring states to certify that their benchmarks for reading and mathematics put students on track for college or a career, administration officials said Sunday.

The proposal, part of Obama's evolving blueprint for a revision of the No Child Left Behind law, was expected to be released Monday as the president meets with governors in Washington. It will give a further boost to a state-led movement toward common standards, a groundbreaking development for a public education system in which current expectations for students vary widely from coast to coast.

Under the proposal, $14.5 billion in annual education aid for students from poor families would be tied to states' action on standards.

Only those that have what the administration calls "college- and career-ready" standards would qualify for the funding, known in education circles as the Title I program.

White House and Education Department officials said a state could show that its benchmarks meet the expected level two ways: by adopting standards developed through a consortium of states or by certifying, in a process to be developed with universities, that their existing standards are high enough.

The first option plainly supports an initiative governors and state schools chiefs launched last year to draft new benchmarks for math and English language arts. Forty-eight states are part of the initiative, although it is unclear how many will adopt the final draft, which is to be released in coming weeks. Kentucky this month became the first state to decide to adopt the standards, after officials reviewed a late draft. Only initiative. Only Texas and Alaska are not part of the initiative.

Under No Child Left Behind, which President George W. Bush signed in 2002, states are free to set standards without federal guidance. Experts say many states have lowered standards to help schools meet the law's testing and accountability requirements.

"We have to stop lying to children," Education Secretary Arne Duncan told the National Governors Association on Sunday. "We have to look them in the eye and tell them the truth at every stage of their educational trajectory."

CONGRATULATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Golden Harvest International School students are all smiles after participating and winning in the inter-school Primary Grade Forensic Conference held last Feb. 6 at San Vicente Elementary School.

In Loving Memory of

Consolacion Aldan Delos Reyes

Also known as "Chong Roman Onio"
Was born on August 26, 1935
Was called to her eternal rest on Thursday,
February 18,2010 at the age of 74

She is predeceased by her:
Husband: †Roman Manahane Delos Reyes
Parents: †Manuel Fausto Aldan and †Cecilia Castro Aldan
Parents in-law: †Antonio Deleon Guerrero Delos Reyes and †Rosa Manahane Delos Reyes
Daughter in-law: †Levita Damaso Reyes
Granddaughter: †Velma Damaso Reyes

Her spirit and memories will live within the hearts of her:
Children and Granchildren:
Antonio Aldan Delos Reyes
Joann San Agustin-Quichocho and Juliet M. Reyes
Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:
Jerome San Agustin Reyes and Rachel Q. Reyes
Jerome JR. and Joann Consolacion
Anthony San Agustin Reyes
Joleina and Gladnie
James San Agustin Reyes
James JR., Taranza, Jaydah
Mark Adrian
Patrick Arriola
Connie Grace Reyes and Family
Jacqueline M. Reyes and Anthony Esteves
Aleiyah Juni'lani and Ayden Jeremiah
Jonathan M. Reyes
Antonio Jr. M. Reyes and Mary Lou Atalig
Julie Ann M. Reyes
Simon Reyes

Thomas Aldan Delos Reyes and Arlene Muna
Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:
Grettel D. Reyes
Valerie D. Reyes and Micheal H. Jackson
Romanika Lyve-ann
†Velma D. Reyes
Kyle Jay and Kody Jared
Verna D. Reyes and Christopher T. Camacho
Verisa Lyvea and Konah Christopher
Vivian P. Reyes and Louie Crisostomo
Donovan, Dylvan, Dylvana and Blayke Khyone
Tommy D. Reyes
Thomas D. Reyes
Brian Muna
Manuel Muna

Joseph Aldan Delos Reyes and Margarita Muna Delos Reyes
Granchildren and Great Grandchildren:
Rose Cecil M. Reyes and Sylvan M. Cabrera
Sylvan Jr., Consolacion Rose, Amelia Ann and Margaret Estella Rose
Joseph Jr. M. Reyes and Marisa Duenas
Jeffrey Roman M. Reyes and Amanda C. Sablan
Keoni, Margret Rose, Alexis Jade and Jeffrey Roman Jr.
Julian Nicolas M. Reyes and Jeding Matagolai
Roman M. Reyes

Reared Daughters:
Rosa DLR. Palacios and †Carlos Palacios/children
Ladonna DLR. Flores and John Flores /children
Brothers and Sister In-law:
Antonio Castro Aldan and Edith Aldan/children
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Camacho
Sisters and Brothers In-law:
Domitilla Camacho Govendo and Judge Ken Govendo
Gabriella T. Deleon Guerrero and Jose Deleon Guerrero
Brother In-law and Sister In-law:
Emilia Delos Reyes Quidichai and †Joaquin Quidichai/children
Raphael Manahane Delos Reyes and Merced V. Delos Reyes/children

She will always be remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, and friends.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30pm at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Aldan Delos Reyes, Airport Road. On Friday, February 26, 2010, her remains will be transported from CHC Morgue at 3:00pm to her residence for an overnight viewing. Her body will be transported to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 12:30pm. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 1:00pm at Mt. Carmel Cathedral and interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Lunch will follow at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Aldan Delos Reyes.

The presence and prayers of all families and friends are deeply appreciated!

Antonio, Thomas, Joseph, Daughters In-law, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

WILLIAM S. REYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

First Grade–Principal's list
Irish Viray, Kalena Flores, Katrina Costales, Mikaela Tatiana Dawat, Ronfel Doria

First Grade Kingfisher
Achievement Award
Adriel Navarro, Christine Becerril, Cierlyn Ricafort, Darryl Soriano, Deelyn Keremius, Ishori Gurung, Khristelle Itaas, Kyle Deleon Guerrero, Melissa Vitug, MJ De Belen, Shannon Mendiola

Second Grade—Principal's list
Dexter Guevarra, Donovan P. Torres, Ethan Mresbang, Hannah Santos, Jasmine Francie N. Calvo, Jeffrey Cunanan, Jerevon Torres, John Michael Mercader, Joselito Gomez, Kobe M. Deleon Guerrero, Kyle Salvosa, Liana DLG. Blas, Llyod Tarope, Michelle Bermudes, Nicole Mae Pak, Sophia Claire Castro, Trey Aiken

Second Grade–Kingfisher Achievement Award
Adrian Catagatan, Aleina Torres, Angelo Bergancia, Brad Tisa, Bryant Dy, Christian Pablo, Christine Noble, Elaine Feria, Elicia Rangamou, Ericka Angel M. Santiago, Erulei Ngiralmuut, Hyun Ga Hyun, Jaivan Dela Pena, Jenagie Laitan, Khristian Carl Itaas, Lesly Ibarra, Princess Alcantra, Vincent Palacios

Third Place–Principal's list
Alyana Mercado, Brett Elbelau, Glorialin Celis, Jenikah Elayda, Jonathan Capayas, Lizann Deleon Guerrero, Natalie Montano, Sean Apasan

Third Grad—Kingfisher Achievement Award
Albert Bergancia, Allan Calangi, Allaysa Pagarao, Ayan Mendoza, Clarisse Torio, Corin Mercado, John Lu Ruoxiang, Kathleen Lacanilao, Klisa John, Lorilynn Camacho, Tiah Camacho, Zelina Mendoza

Fourth Grade– Principal's list
Joanna Yutuc, Ma. Chrizelle Omotoy, Mei Lin, Stephen Carino

Fourth Grade–Kingfisher Achievement Award
Angelica Carreon, Candice Aldan, John Cavinta, John Costales, Kenny Diaz, Kiara Hofschneider, Ryan Relucio, Stephanie Gruy

Fifth Grade–Principal's list
Ariane Reyes, Daryll Navarro, Jayrald Mercene, Jethro Cruz, Jim Lacsina, Mike Carreon, Nathaniel Montano

Fifth Grade–Kingfisher
Achievement Award
April Catagatan, Christian Morales, Coleen Duenas, Edilberto Sampang, Kier Agda, Lorenzy Leo, Nicole Hayag, Zakari Jack

Six Grade–Principal's list
Fariha Omar, Josephine Jetnil, Marielle Mercado, Mikhail Alcantara, Nikki Yutuc, Roselyn Tanghal

Six Grade–Kingfisher Achievement Award
Caitlin Trasmano, Christian Pilapil, Christopher Reyes, Dianne Pablo, Gerald Esquivel, Knohlyn Gechig, Masrur Alam, Mikee Campo, Reniel Relucio.

Life & Style

Metropolitan Opera raising prices for next season

NEW YORK (AP)—The Metropolitan Opera is instituting an across-the-board ticket price increase for the first time in five years next season, when another traditional Franco Zeffirelli production will be jettisoned for a minimalist staging.

The company announced Monday that subscription prices will increase an average of 6 percent and individual tickets will go up an average of 11 percent. Seats for regular single performances range from $25 to $420, up from $20 to $375 this season.

"Obviously, we hope not to lose anything on sales," Met general manager Peter Gelb said following a news conference. "My hope is that the audience will be sufficiently excited about what we've been doing and will want to continue to be part of it. Obviously, when we have ticket price increases, we run a risk."

Gelb said the company is running at a deficit of about $4 million this season on a budget of $290 million after finishing last season with a $1 million deficit. The Met is selling a little more than 80 percent of its tickets, about 3 percent below what the company's budget calls for.

Next season opens Sept. 27 with music director James Levine, starting the 40th anniversary season of his Met debut, conducting a new production of Wagner's "Das Rheingold" starring Bryn Terfel and Stephanie Blythe. Robert Lepage directs in the start of the Met's new Ring Cycle, which will include full Rings in the spring of 2012 and 2013. "Die Walkuere" opens April 22, 2011, with Terfel, Deborah Voigt and Jonas Kaufmann.

There also will be new productions of Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" with Rene Pape (Oct. 11); Verdi's "Don Carlo" with Roberto Alagna (Nov. 22); Verdi's "La Traviata" with Marina Poplavskaya and Matthew Polenzani in a Willy Decker staging based on his production from the 2005 Salzburg Festival (Dec. 31); John Adams' "Nixon in China" with James Maddalena (Feb. 2, 2011); and Rossini's "Le Comte Ory" with Juan Diego Florez and Diana Damrau (March 24, 2011).

AP

In this undated image released by the Metropolitan Opera, Marina Poplavskaya is shown as Violetta in Verdi's "La Traviata." at the De Nederlandse Opera in Amsterdam.

Decker's "Traviata," set on a white, largely bare stage, follows lavish, highly detailed stagings by Zeffirelli in 1989 and 1998. Zeffirelli's productions of Puccini's "Tosca" and Bizet's "Carmen" were replaced this season, the first by a controversial Luc Bondy staging that was booed on opening night.

Levine wouldn't give his opinion on Bondy's creation.

"My mind is in a sort of development state where that's concerned," he said. "They're certain things about it I don't really like, and other things about it I like very, very much. ... I feel funny about that sort of thing because I prefer for people to be able to use their own mind and their own feeling, and not, 'Oh, Jimmy said this' or 'Jimmy said that.' I feel there's room for an awful lot of points of view."

Levine also conducts revivals of Donizetti's "Don Pasquale," Berg's "Wozzeck," and Verdi's "Il Trovatore" and "Simon Boccanegra" next season. Levine will be celebrated with a documentary film directed by Susan Froemke, and the Met will release DVDs and CDs of his past performances.

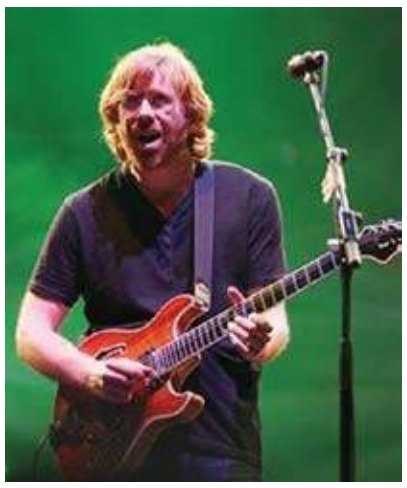
Berlin Philharmonic music director Simon Rattle makes his Met debut Dec. 17 in a revival of Debussy's "Pelleas et Melisande" starring Magdalena Kozena, the mother of two of his sons. William Christie makes his company debut Nov. 9 in a revival of Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte."

A revival of Puccini's "La Fanciulla del West" opens Dec. 6 and repeats Dec. 10, the 100th anniversary of its world premiere at the old Met.

The Met's series of high-definition telecasts to movie theaters includes "Das Rheingold" (Oct. 9), "Boris Godunov" (Oct. 23), "Don Pasquale" (Nov. 13), "Don Carlo" (Dec. 11), "La Fanciulla del West" (Jan. 8, 2011), Gluck's "Iphigenie en Tauride" (Feb. 26, 2011), Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" (March 19, 2011), "Le Comte Ory" (April 9, 2011), Strauss' "Capriccio" (April 23, 2011), Verdi's "Il Trovatore" (April 30, 2011) and "Die Walkure" (May 14, 2011).

Wagner's "Siegfried" and "Goetterdaemmerung" will be included in the 2011-12 high-definition schedule to complete the Ring.

Trey Anastasio and Wyclef among Rock Hall presenters



AP

In this June 12, 2009 file photo provided by Fuse TV via Starpix, Trey Anastasio of the "Jam Band" Phish performs at Bonaroo 2009, in Manchester Tenn.

NEW YORK (AP)—Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio is inducting rock group Genesis into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next month.

The presenters were announced Tuesday by the hall, which is based in Cleveland.

Wyclef Jean (WY'-klef zhahn) will honor Jimmy Cliff. Barry and Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees will induct ABBA. Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong is set to honor The Stooges. And Jackson Browne will induct David Geffen.

The induction ceremony takes place March 15 in New York and will air live on Fuse TV at 8:30 p.m. EST.

In loving memory of

ANTONIO CAMACHO TENORIO

May 10, 1926 - February 16, 2010

Lovingly known as "Tan Ton"

was called to rest on February 16, 2010

Masses of intentions are offered daily at six o'clock in the morning at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Antonio Camacho Tenorio is survived his families:

Evelyn J. Tenorio, Lynnette F. Tenorio and John I. Hirsh-Olivia and Mia Hirsh, Brenda Y. Tenorio and Fred Smith and numerous nephew and nieces.

He was predeceased by his wife Janet S. Tenorio, and his parents, Juan Pangelinan Tenorio and Francisca Camacho Tenorio; ***his brothers, sisters, and in-laws:*** **Luis Camacho** and Rita S. Tenorio; **Albert Camacho** and Rita C. Tenorio; **Maria Tenorio** and Herman R. Guerrero; **Ana Camacho Tenorio**; **Cecilia Tenorio** and Manuel B. Sablan; **Jose Camacho** and Soledad T. Tenorio; **Santiago Camacho** and Maria S. Tenorio and **Froilan C. Tenorio**.

The body of the late Antonio Camacho Tenorio will leave Borja Funeral Home on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. and will be received at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately with burial at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Appreciation lunch will be served at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

The Family

'Shutter Island' opens on top with $41.1 million

AP

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio attends the premiere of "Shutter Island" at The Ziegfeld Theatre, in New York, on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio's thriller "Shutter Island" has managed the best weekend debut ever for both the director and star, opening with $41.1 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. ***"Shutter Island,"*** Paramount, $41,062,440, 2,991 locations, $13,729 average, $41,062,440, one week.

2. ***"Valentine's Day,"*** Warner Bros., $16,665,299, 3,665 locations, $4,547 average, $86,927,385, two weeks.

3. ***"Avatar,"*** Fox, $16,240,857, 2,581 locations, $6,292 average, $687,962,011, 10 weeks.

4. ***"Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief,"*** Fox, $15,254,421, 3,396 locations, $4,492 average, $58,714,813, two weeks.

5. ***"The Wolfman,"*** Universal, $9,895,105, 3,223 locations, $3,070 average, $50,363,730, two weeks.

6. ***"Dear John,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $7,130,552, 3,062 locations, $2,329 average, $65,801,765, three weeks.

7. ***"The Tooth Fairy,"*** Fox, $4,354,280, 2,523 locations, $1,726 average, $49,721,400, five weeks.

8. ***"Crazy Heart,"*** Fox Searchlight, $2,964,586, 1,089 locations, $2,722 average, $21,524,784, 10 weeks.

9. ***"From Paris With Love,"*** Lionsgate, $2,661,829, 2,311 locations, $1,152 average, $21,361,504, three weeks.

10. ***"Edge of Darkness,"*** Warner Bros., $2,243,311, 2,118 locations, $1,059 average, $40,347,222, four weeks.

11. ***"The Book of Eli,"*** Warner Bros., $1,888,305, 1,455 locations, $1,298 average, $90,775,391, six weeks.

12. ***"When in Rome,"*** Disney, $1,737,917, 1,627 locations, $1,068 average, $29,344,987, four weeks.

13. ***"The Blind Side,"*** Warner Bros., $1,451,100, 1,060 locations, $1,369 average, $247,071,052, 14 weeks.

14. ***"Up in the Air,"*** Paramount, $1,052,036, 727 locations, $1,447 average, $80,908,880, 12 weeks.

15. ***"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel,"*** Fox, $935,085, 841 locations, $1,112 average, $215,581,073, nine weeks.

16. ***"Sherlock Holmes,"*** Warner Bros., $846,490, 713 locations, $1,187 average, $205,534,198, nine weeks.

17. ***"My Name Is Khan,"*** Fox Searchlight, $700,885, 125 locations, $5,607 average, $3,253,168, two weeks.

18. ***"It's Complicated,"*** Universal, $699,510, 598 locations, $1,170 average, $110,724,780, nine weeks.

19. ***"Legion,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $625,408, 786 locations, $796 average, $39,221,554, five weeks.

20. ***"The Last Station,"*** Sony Pictures Classics, $558,214, 109 locations, $5,121 average, $2,162,370, six weeks.

'Clash' of 3-D movies to hit underprepared cinemas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movies in 3-D are becoming such big money-makers that Hollywood studios are cramming them into the nation's theaters, even though there aren't enough screens available to give each film its fullest possible run.

That will mean an unprecedented number of 3-D movies for film fans to choose from this spring, and smaller profits for Hollywood studios than they might otherwise get with fewer 3-D competitors.

The pileup was created in part because studios want to capture some of the excitement surrounding "Avatar," the James Cameron epic released in December. At $2.4 billion in global ticket sales, it is the highest-grossing film ever. In addition to the novelty or richer experience that might drive more people to see a 3-D movie, tickets to 3-D movies also cost a few dollars more.

Around the time "Avatar" came out, Warner Bros. decided to convert a remake of "Clash of the Titans" from 2-D to 3-D and push its release back a week, to April 2.

That will be the third 3-D movie to hit the market in a short span. DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc.'s "How to Train Your Dragon" comes out a week earlier, and The Walt Disney Co.'s "Alice in Wonderland" hits theaters March 5. And "Avatar" might still be playing in some places too.

But a limited number of theaters can show these movies in 3-D, because not all theater owners have bought new digital projectors and undertaken other upgrades necessary to show movies in the format. About 3,900 to 4,000 3-D-ready screens are expected to be available in the U.S. and Canada by the end of March. Typically a movie in wide release might be shown on 3,000 to 10,000 screens in North America. In the past, a smaller number of 3-D-capable screens was adequate when one major film at a time was being released in 3-D in addition to 2-D. Each movie had a longer run, and moviegoers who wanted to see it in 3-D could pick a convenient time to go.

With three out at once, each will get less exposure because some theaters with only one or two 3-D screens will have to choose which movies to show in 3-D.

AP

In this July 23, 2009 file photo, fans wear 3-D glasses at a panel held for the movie "Alice in Wonderland" at the Comic-Con International 2009 convention held in San Diego.

"One or all three are going to suffer in some way," said Patrick Corcoran, director of media and research for the National Association of Theatre Owners. "It makes it a much harder decision on exhibitors on what to keep or what to drop or what to add and probably should have been avoided."

Because of the lack of sufficient 3-D theaters, all three studios will also release 2-D versions of their films, as they have in the past.

Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., said that even with the competition, his studio will still meet its revenue targets for the 3-D version of "Clash of the Titans." If not for the 3-D logjam, it might get even more.

"Maybe everyone won't have exactly the amount of screens they had wished for," Fellman said in an interview. "But it'll certainly be enough to cover all of the major markets."

Hollywood can also take solace in the fact that this spring's 3-D screen count in North America is on pace to be twice what it was a year ago. That means that "Clash of the Titans" will have 50 percent more 3-D screens available to it than the 800 used for "Journey to the Center of the Earth" two years ago.

"If you have a theater every six miles as opposed to every three miles, if you want to see it in 3-D, you'll drive a couple of miles," Fellman said. DreamWorks declined to comment on the situation. However, its 3-D "Monsters vs. Aliens" took in $198 million in North American theaters last year on half as many 3-D screens as "How to Train Your Dragon" will have this spring. Even if the 3-D screen count for "Dragon" drops 50 percent on its second weekend, it'll be back to where "Monsters" began, with about 2,000 3-D screens.

Earlier 3-D films didn't have as many other 3-D movies to compete against. "Journey to the Center of the Earth" had a free run of 3-D screens for several months after its summer 2008 release. As more 3-D movies came out in the following year, one movie would largely wind down when another came out.

For example, when "Monsters vs. Aliens" came out last March, the number of screens devoted to "Coraline," a 3-D movie released the previous month, dropped 75 percent.

This year, studios have to hope that movie fans are willing to spend extra to see more than one 3-D movie in a short period.

Chuck Viane, Disney's president of distribution, said that despite a "temporary shortfall of 3-D screens," moviegoers are still primed for the experience.

There are 19 3-D movies scheduled for release this year, including Disney's "Toy Story 3" and DreamWorks' "Shrek Forever After" and "Megamind."

The next time such a scheduling crunch will occur is Dec. 17, when both "Tron Legacy" and "Yogi Bear" will appear in 3-D. The number of 3-D screens in North America should reach around 5,000 by then, alleviating some of the problem.

Superman's debut comic book sells in NYC for $1M

AP

In this image released by Comic Connect Corp., a the June 1938 cover of "Action Comics" that first featured Superman, is shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—A rare copy of the first comic book featuring Superman sold Monday for $1 million, smashing the previous record price for a comic book.

A 1938 edition of Action Comics No. 1, widely considered the Holy Grail of comic books, was sold by a private seller to a private buyer, neither of whom released their names. The issue features Superman lifting a car on its cover and originally cost 10 cents.

The transaction was conducted by the auction site ComicConnect.com. Stephen Fishler, co-owner of the site and its sister dealership, Metropolis Collectibles, orchestrated the sale.

Fishler said it transpired minutes after the issue was put on sale at around 10:30 a.m. Eastern time. He said that the seller was a "well-known individual" in New York with a pedigree collection and that the buyer was a known customer who previously bought an Action Comics No. 1 of lesser grade.

"It's considered by most people as the most important book," said John Dolmayan, a comic book enthusiast and dealer best known as the drummer for the rock band System of a Down. "It kind of ushered in the age of the superheroes."

Dolmayan, who owns Torpedo Comics, last year paid $317,000 for an Action Comics No. 1 issue for a client.

That purchase is considered the "official public record" for a comic book sale, said Mark Zaid, the marketing director for the Comic Book Collecting Association, which was launched Monday. There have been other private sales in the $300,000 to $450,000 range, he said.

Monday's copy fetched a much higher price because it's in better condition. It's rated an 8.0 grade, or very fine, on a scale that goes up to 10.

Dolmayan said he didn't buy this copy but he wishes he could have.

"The fact that this book is completely unrestored and still has an 8.0 grade, it's kind of like a diamond or a precious stone. It's very rare," he said.

There are only about 100 copies of Action Comics No. 1 believed to be in existence, and only a handful have been rated so highly. It's rarer still for those copies to be made available for sale.

Child services visits Charlie Sheen's LA home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Child services workers checked on the children of Charlie and Brooke Sheen over the weekend for what was described Monday by the couple's representatives as a routine checkup.

Sheen's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, said it was a scheduled, procedural visit. Brooke Sheen's attorney, Yale Galanter, said it was a routine follow-up so that case workers in Aspen, Colo., could close a file opened after Charlie Sheen's Christmas Day arrest.

The "Two and a Half Men" actor faces domestic violence charges in Colorado. He is accused of holding a knife to his wife's throat and threatening to kill her at his Aspen home.

Representatives of child protective service agencies in Los Angeles and Aspen declined to comment on visit, saying they couldn't confirm whether there was even an active case involving the Sheen children. The couple have twin baby sons who are nearly 1.

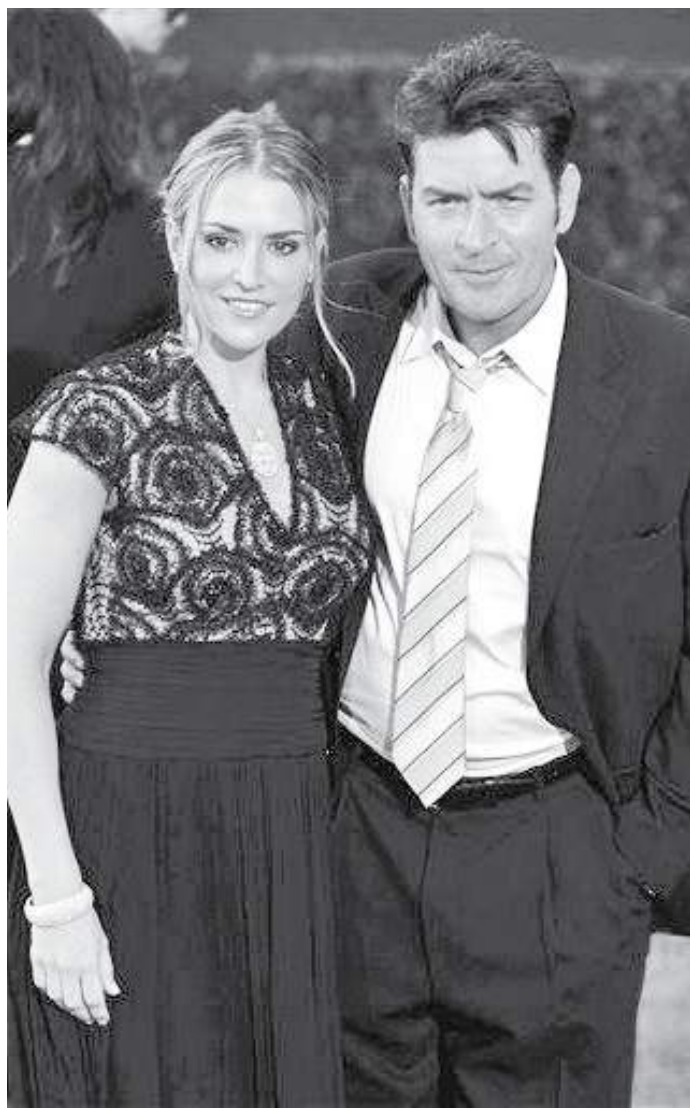
"They're doing great," Galanter said of the children.

Galanter said Brooke Sheen has been forced to move from a Malibu rehab facility, The Canyon, after the staff leaked her medical information.

Galanter declined to specify what Brooke Sheen was in treatment for. The Canyon states on its Web site that it offers treatment for a variety of drug, alcohol and mental illness conditions.

He said Brooke Sheen was in "ongoing treatment for rehabilitation because of the events of Dec. 25," Galanter said. "She truly is committed to becoming the best person and mother she can be."

A phone message for The Canyon was not immediately returned on Monday.



In this Sept. 20, 2009, file photo, actor Charlie Sheen, right, and his wife Brooke Mueller arrive at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

New Jersey judge won't block 'Jersey Shore' DVD release

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey man who says he was beaten during an episode of MTV's reality show "Jersey Shore" has lost his bid to stop the release of a video depicting it.

Stephen Izzo Jr. says a show cast member punched him outside a Seaside Heights nightclub.

Superior Court Judge Joseph L. Foster ruled Monday that Izzo "failed to demonstrate any financial or irreparable harm" he'd suffer from the distribution of a DVD box set of the first season of the show, which focuses on the escapades of eight 20-something Italian-Americans thrown together at a shore house last summer. The judge says producers obscured the Bayville resident's face.

MTV says the show will be back for another season despite complaints by Italian-American groups that it promotes ethnic stereotypes and is "wildly offensive."

'Heroes' actor Adrian Pasdar charged with DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show actor Adrian Pasdar has been charged with drunken driving, and his arraignment is scheduled for later this week.

The 44-year-old actor was arrested Jan. 27 after authorities say they spotted him speeding and veering over two lanes of traffic on a Los Angeles freeway.

He was charged with one count of driving under the influence on Friday. City attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan (mah-tell-JIN') says Pasdar's arraignment is scheduled for Wednesday.

The actor's manager, Will Flaherty, declined comment.

Pasdar plays Nathan Petrelli on NBC's "Heroes." He's married to Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines.

In this Dec. 3, 2009 file photo, Adrian Pasdar attends the premiere of "Everybody's Fine" in New York.

AP

Opera star Domingo to undergo surgery

LOSANGELES (AP)—Placido Domingo is expected to undergo surgery later this week after the internationally acclaimed tenor suffered abdominal pain during a recent performance in Tokyo.

Publicist Nancy Seltzer said Monday that Domingo will undergo the surgery at a New York hospital. She would only describe the procedure as "medically recommended preventive surgery."

Seltzer says Domingo expects to resume his performance schedule after a recuperation period of about six weeks. He was on a world tour when he was stricken.

Domingo, 69, is general director of both the Los Angeles Opera and the Washington National Opera, as well as one of the world's greatest opera singers.

Cyrus, Efron, Stewart, Lautner join Oscar show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Miley Cyrus, Zac Efron and "Twilight" co-stars Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner have joined the lineup at the Academy Awards.

Oscar organizers announced Monday that "Hannah Montana" star Cyrus, "High School Musical" co-star Efron and Stewart and Lautner will be presenters at the awards show March 7.

They are four of Hollywood's biggest rising stars, bringing some youth appeal to the Oscars, whose overseers are trying to boost the show's TV ratings.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences previously announced that Sean Penn, Kate Winslet and Penelope Cruz, who won acting Oscars a year ago, will present honors this time around.

In this Jan. 31, 2010 file photo, singer and actress Miley Cyrus arrives at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

'In vino veritas' reveals painful truth of marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The other day I asked my husband a question and told him to be honest. If given a choice between giving up wine or giving up sex with me, which would he choose?

You guessed it. He said, "Giving up sex with you." I think I knew the answer before I asked the question, but hearing it out loud devastated me.

I know every woman wants to be No. 1 in her husband's life. Am I wrong to feel so heartbroken?

LOST THE BATTLE TO CHARDONNAY

DEAR LOST THE BATTLE: Not at all, particularly if you prefer sex to a full-bodied Cabernet. But now it's time for a follow-up question: "Why?" If sex with you is less interesting to your mate than his vino, he may have an alcohol problem. Or the problem may lie in your bedroom.

One thing is certain: When you asked your question, you "uncorked" the fact that there's a serious problem in your marriage. And now you have an opportunity to do something about it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife is constantly passing gas. She does not care where she is or who is around. I have worked in the trucking industry for almost 30 years and never ran across anyone as flatulent as she is.

She is young and attractive, but there is nothing less appealing than feeling "frisky," getting into bed and hearing the trumpet sounds. I have recommended she see a doctor, but she laughs it off and says, "Everyone does it."

I can't believe I'm the only one with this problem. I could really use some "sound" advice, Abby.

BLOWN AWAY IN ALLIANCE, OHIO

DEAR BLOWN AWAY: Everyone may do "it," but perhaps not to the extent that your wife does. There are over-the-counter products that can lessen the problem, which may be related to her diet. However, if her flatulence persists, then I'm recommending you not let your wife "laugh off" the idea of consulting a physician, because her problem could be a symptom of something that needs to be checked out—and that's no joke.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our driveway is directly across from our neighbor's dining room window. The only curtain open in their entire house is this one. Since they always sit at this window, they can observe who pulls in and out, what groceries are brought in and how many times we leave.

They make comments like, "I see you had pizza last night," or, "What did you buy at 'Such and Such' store?" This has caused a strain on our relationship with them.

I know they have a right to open whatever curtains they want in their own house, but what about the invasion of our privacy?

PEEVED BY THE PEEPERS, JOHNSTOWN, PA.

DEAR PEEVED: Apparently what's going on in your driveway is better than what's on television. Because you can't change your neighbors, you're going to have to find the humor in this situation and change the way you react. They may be trying to make conversation because there's nothing else going on in their lives. And their curiosity might turn out to be a blessing one day if someone tries to enter your home in your absence.

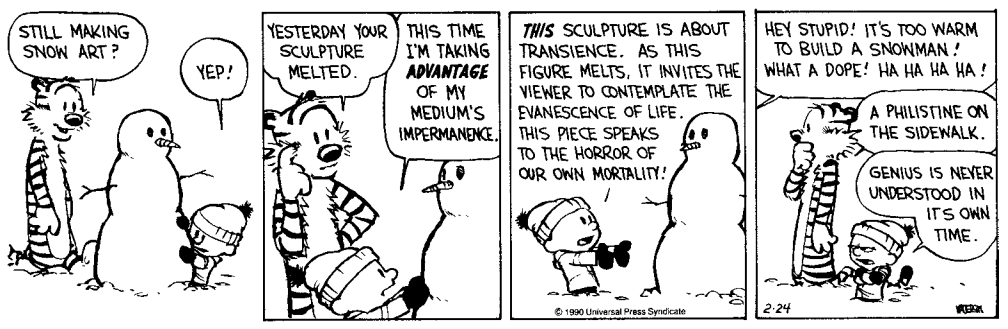
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


STILL MAKING SNOW ART?
YEP!
YESTERDAY YOUR SCULPTURE MELTED.
THIS TIME I'M TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY MEDIUM'S IMPERMANENCE.
THIS SCULPTURE IS ABOUT TRANSIENCE. AS THIS FIGURE MELTS, IT INVITES THE VIEWER TO CONTEMPLATE THE EVANESCENCE OF LIFE. THIS PIECE SPEAKS TO THE HORROR OF OUR OWN MORTALITY!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
HEY STUPID! IT'S TOO WARM TO BUILD A SNOWMAN! WHAT A DOPE! HA HA HA HA!
A PHILISTINE ON THE SIDEWALK.
GENIUS IS NEVER UNDERSTOOD IN IT'S OWN TIME.
2-24

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU MUST SAVE THE PRINCESS. CHOOSE YOUR CHARACTER
BOOP
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www.garfield.com
"SIR WHINES-A-LOT"?! THAT'S THE ONE I ALWAYS CHOOSE!
I WANT TO BE SIR WHINES-A-LOT!!
TALK ABOUT YOUR TYPE-CASTING
JIM DAVIS 2-24
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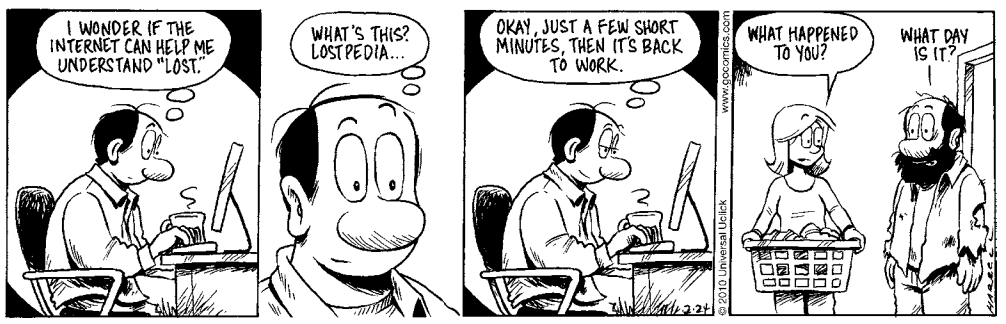
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WONDER IF THE INTERNET CAN HELP ME UNDERSTAND "LOST."
WHAT'S THIS? LOSTPEDIA...
OKAY, JUST A FEW SHORT MINUTES, THEN IT'S BACK TO WORK.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT DAY IS IT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, BABE! HOW 'BOUT A KISS?
SLAP
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
2-24-10
YOU SHOULD HAVE LET HER SMELL YOUR HAND FIRST.
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

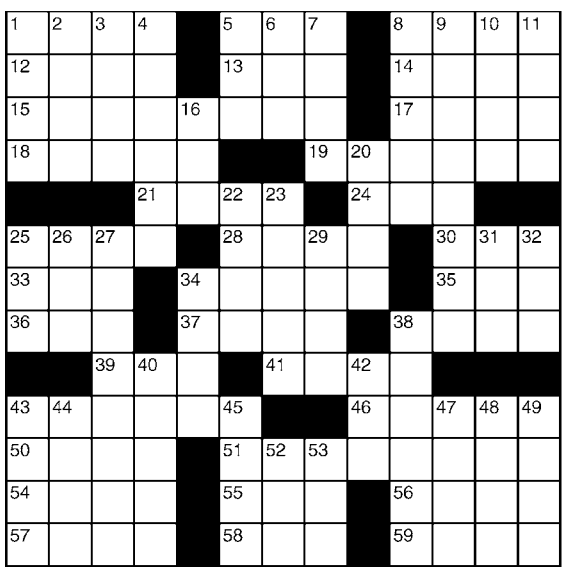
ACROSS
1 Not pizzicato
5 Matterhorn, for one
8 Additionally
12 Fish's breather
13 Greet the villain
14 Burden
15 Nut
17 Division word
18 Omega's opposite
19 Scanty
21 — and crafts
24 Donkey
25 Nuisance
28 Min. fractions
30 Venusian vessel?
33 Ostrich's cousin
34 Utterly defeated
35 Debtor's letters
36 Tire pressure meas.
37 Tennessee emblem
38 Undo a dele
39 AAA job
41 Church recess
43 Frenzied
46 Plankton, in part
50 Mormon State
51 Recklessly
54 Erato is one
55 Piercing tool
56 Sicilian spouter
57 Fishing site
58 Golf ball holder
59 Crucifix

DOWN
1 Turkish title
2 Money of Cambodia
3 Applaud
4 Trite
5 Lawyers' org.
6 Part of UCLA
7 Verse
8 Assumed name
9 Forte
10 Fill till full
11 Smell
16 Jam ingredient?
20 Right on the map?
22 Despot
23 Old photo tint
25 Energy
26 Type measures
27 Grip
29 Point
31 Adversary
32 Chic no more
34 Bird of New Zealand
38 Merchant
40 Different
42 Blue
43 Camel feature
44 Needle case
45 Converse
47 Attend
48 Domini preceder
49 "Zounds!"
52 Ram's ma'am
53 Hearty quaff

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	A	L	T	■	S	E	A	■	S	L	O	E
O	R	E	O	■	P	A	L	■	H	A	N	D
S	P	A	N	N	E	R	S	■	R	O	T	E
■	■	■	S	A	W	■	O	R	I	S	O	N
S	P	R	I	G	■	O	R	A	N	■	■	■
O	R	E	L	■	S	P	A	N	K	I	N	G
B	O	B	■	S	W	A	N	K	■	B	I	O
S	P	A	N	I	E	L	S	■	G	I	S	T
■	■	■	E	R	A	S	■	A	U	D	I	O
S	A	U	C	E	R	■	O	W	N	■	■	■
L	U	S	T	■	S	P	A	N	G	L	E	D
A	R	E	A	■	I	R	K	■	H	A	T	E
P	A	R	R	■	N	O	S	■	O	V	A	L

Yesterday's answer 2-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Zane, 44; Eddie Murray, 54; Helen Shaver, 59; Edward James Olmos, 63

Happy Birthday: Make your home your focus this year. Money can be made if you invest in long-term projects. Your current relationship will experience many changes but the end result will be favorable. Social networking will help you discover new activities and friendships. Make clear what you want personally and professionally. Your numbers are 5, 8, 17, 21, 26, 35, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will face barriers trying to get others to see and do things to your specifications. Don't waste time trying to get others to pitch in and help. Instead, do what you want rapidly and efficiently so that no one can question your motives. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't be afraid to push your weight around, especially if there is a cause or concern you care about and want to get involved in. Your ability to persuade others to see the need for reform and change could lead to prestige and financial gain. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Concentrate on the positive changes you can make and on your professional position. A chance to alter your career choice or get involved in something that really interests you is apparent—if you don't allow someone to stand in your way. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A love connection is looking good. Spend time with that special person or attend a function where you can meet someone new and exciting. Mixing business with pleasure will meet with approval both personally and professionally. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Check out the possibility of turning one of your investments into something more substantial. Buying and selling property or making a move that will allow you greater freedom or professional choices should be considered. A change of scenery will do you good. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take advantage of everything and anything being offered. Opportunities are abundant if you investigate what's going on around you. Talks will lead to progress and being honest about your needs will help you get what you want. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may want to neglect your responsibilities or someone who is depending on you but, consider the consequences. It's vital that you take charge and care of the people and things that can mess up your game plan in the future. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Travel, attend an exhibit or join a group that interests you and you will find opportunities to further your personal and professional goals. Get out, network, promote and present what you have to offer and the results you get will be overwhelming. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful how you handle your money and your professional affairs. Personal setbacks at home will cause you to lose ground emotionally and hurt your reputation. Do not make any hasty moves without doing your homework. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Go the extra mile and impress someone you care about or want to get to know better. A blast from your past will be entertaining. A career change with an unusual twist will bring you closer to a life long goal. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Giving false hope or pretenses will not go over well when you don't follow through. Focus on the people in your life whom you love. Be honest about your habits and the things that need changing. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Self-evaluation will do you some good. The ideas you have that will enable you to utilize your skills more will help you advance personally and professionally. It's never too late to start something new or to resurrect an old goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, playful and affectionate. You are a master of manipulation. You are insightful and colorful.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2	8	4			
		1				7		
	5	6				8	4	
7								9
6								5
	8	5	9		1	3	2	
			3		5			
		3				1		
		4	1	9	7	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	1	7	6	2	8	5	3
5	7	8	9	1	3	4	2	6
3	2	6	8	4	5	1	9	7
2	6	9	1	8	7	3	4	5
8	5	4	6	3	9	7	1	2
1	3	7	5	2	4	9	6	8
7	1	2	4	5	8	6	3	9
6	9	3	2	7	1	5	8	4
4	8	5	3	9	6	2	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRYDE'S WHALE **Solution: 7 letters**

T	A	K	M	M	U	S	C	U	L	A	R	S	S	A
G	H	N	L	A	S	R	O	D	B	A	L	E	E	N
N	L	R	I	M	C	E	G	R	A	L	G	A	L	C
I	E	L	O	M	A	K	V	F	Y	D	N	W	B	H
R	N	A	O	A	A	R	E	L	I	L	O	A	B	O
R	G	U	I	L	T	L	I	R	A	N	L	T	U	V
E	T	Q	M	R	U	G	I	N	E	C	S	E	B	Y
H	H	R	R	E	E	N	R	A	E	L	E	R	B	S
L	F	O	E	E	S	H	I	O	N	Z	A	R	L	R
I	I	R	W	H	B	H	T	Q	O	A	I	H	O	E
A	L	(P)	O	T	G	B	L	U	U	V	E	S	W	P
T	T	(R)	P	R	R	R	U	I	E	E	E	C	H	P
W	E	(E)	E	E	A	A	O	L	K	T	I	S	O	I
I	R	(Y)	E	U	L	B	P	W	B	E	I	N	L	L
N	E	D	E	S	R	A	C	S	S	F	D	E	E	F

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Anchovy, Animalia, Baleen, Belly, Blowhole, Blubber, Blue, Breed, Bubbles, Calves, Dorsal, Eden, Eutheria, Feed, Filter, Fins, Fish, Flippers, Grey, Grooves, Grows, Herring, Inshore, Large, Length, Long, Mackerel, Mammal, Marine, Mesh-like, Mouth, Muscular, Ocean, Power, Prey, Ridges, Rorqual, Scars, Seawater, Size, Tail, Throat, Traps, Twin, Unique, Whale

Yesterday's Answer: Treasures

Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE 285-6640

WHATZIT Solution: See through rose-colored glasses

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT CORP., Plaintiff, vs. ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNIEDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17th, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants in and to the property described as:

Lot No. 001 T 33, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 T 00, the original of which was registered 23 JUL 70 as Document No. 100-A at Land Registry, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, March 26th, 2010, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St., Botones Ave., Garapan Beach Road, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**
   a. ***Reserve.*** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
   b. ***Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.*** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.
   c. ***Bids.*** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered or mailed to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus Street, Botones Avenue, Garapan, P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
   d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**
   a. ***Deposit.*** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

7. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted or denied. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescissions by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted or denied.

8. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 19th day of February 2010.

/s/ By: Timothy H. Bellas
Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
Auctioneer
Tel. no. 323-2115

San Vicente School Community Based Management Inc.
has a temporary, part-time job opening:

Requirements: Must have a police and health clearance
Hours: 9:00-11:30am and 12:30-2:30pm (4.5 hrs a day)
Hourly rate: $7.50 per hour
Days: School days Monday through Friday
Length of employment: To the end of school year 09-10 or until funding is exhausted, whichever is first.
Duties: Assist teachers at the San Vicente Aquaculture Science Center by assisting with biological controls, and safety supervision.
Selection criteria: Based on qualifications with preference given to native islanders.
Send resumes to vawelch@gmail.com or fax 664-3985

Note: This is not a Public School System position. The person hired for this position will be working under the same authority as any of the other San Vicente School parent volunteers.

This position funded by a grant from the Native Americans Administration (ANA)

CASHIERS WANTED

Successful applicant must have

- Friendly, outgoing and positive attitude
- Customer Service Skills
- Strong Math and English skills
- Ability to work in a high volume, demanding environment
- Ability to learn quickly and follow instructions
- Organizational skills & able to meet deadlines
- Ability to work with others and be a team player
- Driver's license & reliable transportation
- High School diploma or GED equivalent

Experience cashiering is helpful but not required, We will train the right applicant.

PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION/RESUME AND POLICE CLEARANCE TO:

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION - SAIPAN
SHELL GUALO RAI (ACROSS PIZZA HUT)
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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POI Aviation
A TanHoldings Company

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Our company provides a wide range of ground handling services for both private as well as commercial aircrafts. We are currently in need of a Passenger Service Agent with the following requirements:

- Korean or Nihongo speaking
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- Must possess customer service experience and excellent interpersonal skills
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- Must be legally eligible for employment in the United States

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing service and assistance to airline passengers. His/her job will entail handling reservations and passenger check-ins including the examination of passenger documentation to determine destinations and to assign boarding passes.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:
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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in this section

Hawks end 17-year drought in Utah with win vs Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Joe Johnson scored 28 points and Josh Smith added 18 as the Atlanta Hawks won in Utah for the first time in 17 years, beating the short-handed Jazz 105-100 on Monday night.

Johnson scored 11 points in the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer with 2:28 left that gave the Hawks a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

Jamal Crawford, who had 17 points, followed Johnson's long shot with a steal and two free throws and the Jazz lost for just the third time in 20 games.

Playing without Deron Williams and Andrei Kirilenko, the Jazz stayed close until the final minute, but allowed the Hawks to shoot 54 percent.

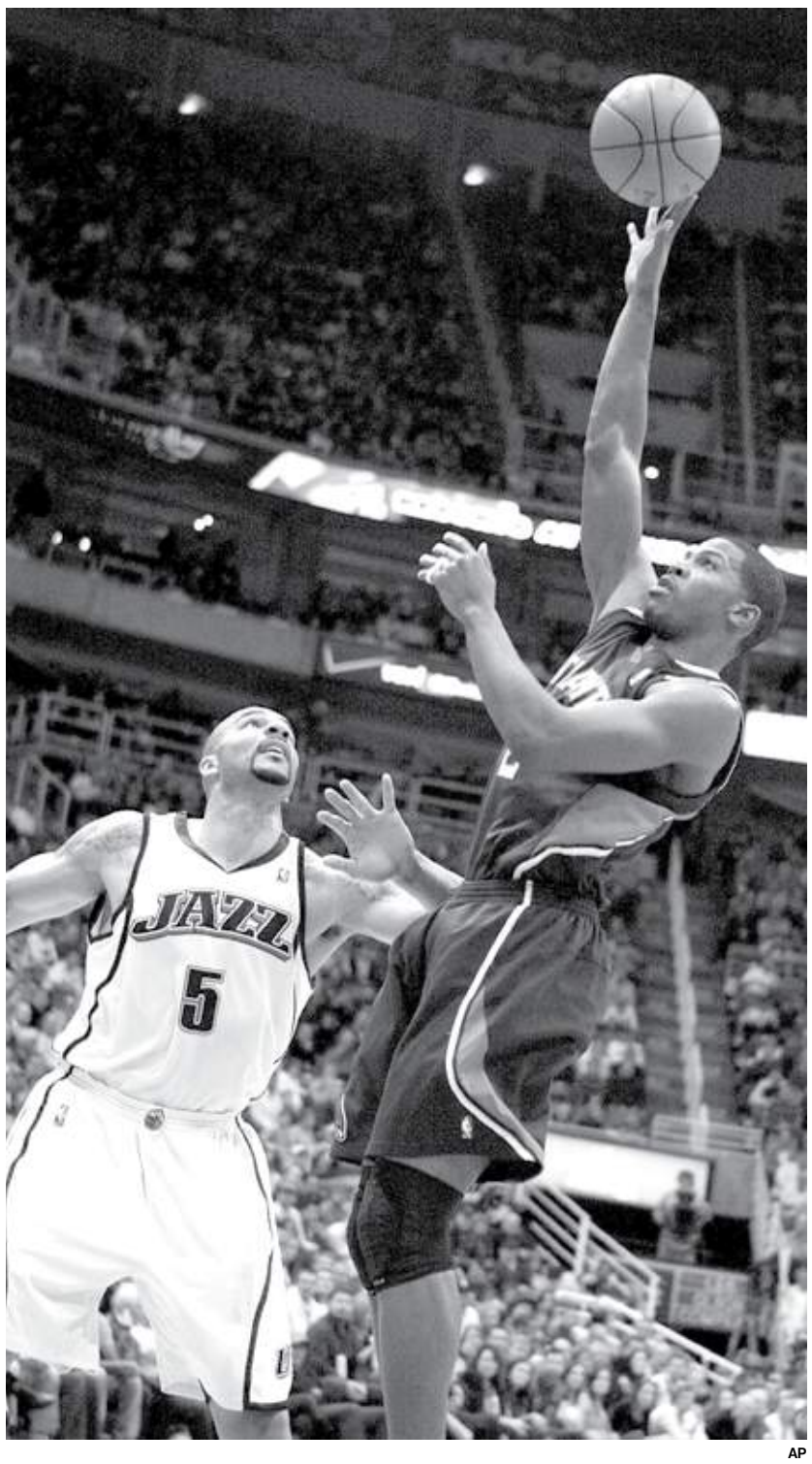
The Hawks hadn't won in Utah since Feb. 13, 1993, when Dominique Wilkins scored 43 points to lead Atlanta to a 121-112 victory.

Paul Millsap scored 14 points and Ronnie Price and Kyle Korver each had 13 points for the Jazz, who missed a chance to catch Denver for a share of the Northwest Division lead and the second position in the Western Conference standings.

A night after a 22-point, 23-rebound effort, Carlos Boozer had 12 points, 10 rebounds and a season-high eight assists but missed a couple of late shots and dropped a rebound out of bounds when the Jazz had a chance to tie it in the final minute.

Williams briefly left Sunday's game at Portland with a leg injury, but returned to help the Jazz complete a 93-89 overtime victory after trailing by 25 points. Williams had 18 points and 12 assists, while playing tenacious defense against Brandon Roy in the final minutes.

Kirilenko left the game against the Trail Blazers in the first quarter with back pain, an ongoing issue for the lanky forward. His recent play has been critical in Utah's surge, but he has now sat out seven games this season with the ailment.



AP

Atlanta Hawks guard Joe Johnson (2) puts a shot over Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 22, 2010, in Salt Lake City.

Mavericks 91, Pacers 82

In Dallas, Brendan Haywood tied a career high with 20 rebounds and Dallas improved to 4-0 with him as their starting center, beating Indiana.

Haywood, who came from Washington in a trade this month, scored 13 points and added three blocks to anchor a defense that was struggling. The Mavericks have held all five opponents since the trade to less than 100 points after the previous eight broke that mark.

Dirk Nowitzki's 23 points led Dallas, who opened a 3-1/2 game gap atop the Southwest Division.

T.J. Ford led the Pacers with 14 points.

Clippers 98, Bobcats 94

In Los Angeles, Rasual Butler scored 20 points to lead Los Angeles over Charlotte.

Chris Kaman had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won consecutive games after starting 0-5 under interim coach Kim Hughes.

Drew Gooden and Travis Outlaw both made their debuts for the Clippers after joining them from Washington and Houston respectively before last Thursday's deadline.

Gerald Wallace had 32 points and 12 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Wizards 101, Bulls 95

In Washington, Andray Blatche scored 25 points and had 11 rebounds to lead Washington over Chicago.

Blatche, averaging 25 points in the four games since the trades of Antawn Jamison and Caron Butler, helped Washington to its first three-game home winning streak since 2007-08. He also made all nine of his free throws.

Early in the third quarter, the Wizards scored 14 straight to take a 62-58 lead, holding Chicago scoreless for 6 minutes, 10 seconds.

Derrick Rose scored 22 points to lead the Bulls, who lost their first game in five.

Bucks 83, Knicks 67

In New York, Milwaukee made it three straight wins, beating punchless New York.

Andrew Bogut had 24 points and 20 rebounds in his third career 20-20 game. The Australian overwhelmed the Knicks' smaller front line, shooting. 12 of 15 from the field in his first 20-20 game this season.

John Salmons scored 15 points for the Bucks, who forced the Knicks into their lowest score of the season and completed a three-game sweep of the series.

Tracy McGrady scored 15 points in his second game with the Knicks, but shot only 5 of 14. He wasn't alone in struggling, as the team hit just 33.8 percent from the field in its season-high seventh straight loss.

NBA BRIEFS

Source: NBA will not block Z's returning to Cleveland

NEW YORK (AP)—An official within the league told The Associated Press on Monday the NBA has not threatened to stop a potential reunion between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Zydrunas Ilgauskas. The Cavaliers traded their longtime center to Washington last week in the three-team deal that brought Antawn Jamison to Cleveland. The Wizards may decide to buy out Ilgauskas, allowing him to become a free agent. The Los Angeles Times quoted an unnamed source Sunday saying the NBA had told other teams it wouldn't let Ilgauskas go back to the Cavs. However, the official told the AP the league would only step in if there was proof of an agreement before the trade was completed. The person was granted anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly about the Ilgauskas situation. A message was left with Ilgauskas' agent seeking comment. If a buyout is reached with the Wizards, Ilgauskas would be placed on waivers. No team is far enough under the salary cap to absorb his $11.5 million salary for this season, so he would become a free agent eligible to join any team for a pro-rated share of the veteran's minimum.

76ers G Iverson out indefinitely

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia 76ers guard Allen Iverson has left the team and is out indefinitely to spend time with his ill daughter. Iverson will miss at least the remaining three games of Philadelphia's road trip. Iverson missed five games and the All-Star game to be with his family when the health issue surfaced earlier this month Iverson has not disclosed what is ailing his 4-year-old daughter, Messiah. Sixers president Ed Stefanski says it was in the best interest of the team and Iverson to allow him time with his family to deal with a "very serious issue."

Wizards F Josh Howard out with strained knee

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wizards forward Josh Howard has strained his left knee in a game against the Chicago Bulls and won't return. Howard, acquired from Dallas on Feb. 13 in a seven-player trade, was playing in his fourth game with Washington. He collided with Chicago's Flip Murray while trying to catch an outlet pass under Washington's basket with 4:23 to play in the first quarter Monday night. Howard fell on the floor, stayed there for a minute and was helped up as he clutched his left knee. Two trainers assisted him off the floor. Howard had seven points when he was injured.

Spurs' Parker listed as day-to-day with hip injury

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Spurs guard Tony Parker has a mild strain of his left hip flexor and is listed as day-to-day. Team physicians made the diagnosis Monday after an MRI. Parker missed Sunday night's 109-101 overtime loss at Detroit after scoring just two points on 1-of-9 shooting Friday night at Philadelphia. The 27-year-old Parker leads the Spurs in assists and is second in scoring. The Spurs return to play Wednesday night against Oklahoma City, their first home game since Jan. 31.

Manny Ramirez says this is his final season in LA

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Manny Ramirez is known for saying some curious things. This is his latest pronouncement: The Dodgers star insists his days in LA are numbered. "I know I'm not going to be here next year," Ramirez said Monday.

Ramirez's contract expires after this season. Why is he so certain he won't get an extension?

"I don't know," he said. "I just know I'm not going to be here."

At 37, Ramirez is heading into his 17th major league season. The former World Series MVP served a 50-game drug suspension last year and, for him, was hardly a forc—.290, 19 home runs, 63 RBIs.

Ramirez threw out the possibility that he could retire after 2010.

"What I can do is to just wait and at the end of the season I can say to myself if I want to do this, if I want to play," Ramirez said. "That's where I'm at. I think I have to wait until the season ends and see where my family's at and make a choice."

Asked if he can see a scenario where Ramirez might be pursued in the offseason, general manager Ned Colletti wasn't in the mood to look into the future.

"I'm worried about this season, that's where my focus is," Colletti said. "If that is accurate (that Ramirez won't return to the Dodgers) and he still wants to play after this year, I hope that he's the premier free agent on the market. That would mean he had a great year for the Dodgers."

Ramirez knows the business of baseball. He knows that if he struggles, the Dodgers probably wouldn't want him back. He's also aware that if he returns to being a dominating offensive force, the Dodgers, with their uncertain financial situation, likely would not be in a position to re-sign him.

Ramirez can often be a bundle of contradictions and Monday was no different. He said he has accomplished everything he wanted to in the game. Yet, he said he worked harder this offseason than ever.

"My whole career I never hit (during the winter) but after this year I needed to figure out some stuff, so that's what I did," said Ramirez, who has been in Arizona a full week before position players are required to report.

A late arrival to spring training in 2009 as his contract was being negotiated, Ramirez started the season batting .348 with six home runs and 20 RBI over the first 27 games.

On May 7, though, he was suspended for violating baseball's drug policy. He returned to bat .278 in July and .301 in August, but hit just .218 from Sept. 1 until the end of the season.

A big turning point was a July 22 game against Cincinnati when he was hit on the wrist by a pitch from Homer Bailey. Despite hitting for average over the next month, Ramirez struggled with pitches on the inner half of the plate the remainder of the season.

The Dodgers have made the playoffs in both years Ramirez was on the team.

"I know he wasn't happy with the way things went on here (last season) and the way he struggled," manager Joe Torre said. "He was determined to get that thing straightened out. He watched a lot of video, did some work this winter and feels pretty good about where he is now."

Torre isn't about to buy into the idea that Ramirez won't play after 2010.

"I think it will depend on whether it continues to be fun for him," Torre said. "I'm sure there are things he wants to accomplish statistically. And just knowing Manny over the last 15 years or so, if it's not fun for him, he will have trouble going out there doing it as a job. But I'd like to believe he will play longer than this year."

Ramirez said he appreciated the support Dodgers fans have given him.

"It's been great," he said. "I wish I could have been there a long time ago. It's a great city and I had a blast there. I'm just happy the way they received me out there. It was unbelievable."

Canada's Virtue-Moir win ice dance gold

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Long after the event ended and the arena had emptied, Scott Moir stole back onto the ice. Clutching his gold medal in one hand, he knelt down and kissed the Olympic rings at center ice.

Then he climbed into the stands, took pictures with the cleaning crew and signed a few autographs. He even let a few folks touch the medal for a second or two.

He and his partner, Tessa Virtue, had knocked the Russians from their traditional perch atop the ice dance podium, so this party was going to last a long time.

Virtue and Moir won the dance title Monday night, a first for the Canadians—heck, for anybody in North America. For only the third time since ice dance became an Olympic sport in 1976, the gold went to someone other than a Russian or Soviet couple.

"I'll probably wear it in the shower," Moir said. "I'm not going to take it off all week."

The Russians won't have that option. They've been oh-for-gold in pairs, men's competition and now dance—events they're used to dominating. They could very well go home without winning at least one skating event for the first time since 1960.

Russia couldn't even win the silver in dance. That went to two-time U.S. champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White, giving the United States back-to-back dance medals for the first time. Reigning world champions Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin of Russia were third.

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, silver medalists at the 2006 Olympics and the skaters who started this dance revolution, were fourth.

"North America has really come into its own in terms of ice dance," Davis said. "This Olympics is a little bit of a turning point again. It's really exciting to be a part of it."

AP

Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir react on the podium after winning the gold medal in the ice dance figure skating competition at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010.

Davis and White's silver was the 25th medal won by the U.S., matching its record set in 2006 for medals won at a Winter Olympics away from home. The Americans are guaranteed of passing that, because the U.S. women's hockey team can do no worse than a silver medal.

"For us to be a part of that, it's really exciting," Davis said.

Virtue's jaw dropped when she saw their overall score of 221.57 and Moir jumped to his feet, screaming almost as loudly as the crowd that was shattering the decibel meter. With Davis and White, second after the original dance, already finished, Virtue and Moir knew the gold was all but theirs.

Virtue and Moir finished 5.83 points ahead of the Americans, their close friends and training partners in Detroit.

"I don't think either of us would be where we are without the other. We help each other on our bad days, and even push it a little more on the good days," Moir said. "To have each other up there on the podium, side by side, it's amazing. They're such great people.

"I'm sure they wanted to be up on the top of the podium, but they don't show any of that to us," he added. "They're just such great friends, and they gave us the best hug."

Moir couldn't stop moving on the medals podium, and he shook his bouquet so hard during their victory lap that flowers went flying across the ice. The couple looked around the arena as the ceremony started and, recognizing that few fans had left, made sure to display their medals to every corner of the arena, inviting everyone to share a piece of their triumph. With each new wave of applause, their grins widened.

After their lap, Moir jumped into the stands and held up his medal so fans could get a closer look. Then he and Virtue sprinted back onto the ice, holding up the Canadian flag.

"Right now, Vancouver is our favorite place to be," Virtue said. "It's been the perfect games."

Virtue and Moir's program was tender and sensual, like a married couple stealing away for a romantic evening. Their gentle, slow start showcased their skating skills, their edges so quiet and smooth they appeared to float above the ice. Make no mistake, though, there was plenty of strength behind that softness.

They had as much power and speed as the hockey players Moir admires so much, but it was performed with balletic grace. Their combination spin seemed to go on forever, with many different positions and edge changes.

And their lifts, oh my. Virtue looked almost angelic on one, balancing on his right thigh with her arms outstretched while he stayed in a deep-knee, spread-eagle bend before she flipped forward and into his arms.

When they finished, they hugged each other tightly. It's been a tough road for the Canadians, who missed almost all of the 2008-09 season after she had surgery to relieve chronic pain in both her shins.

"I wasn't sure we'd ever get back," Virtue said. "That makes this victory even sweeter."

While Virtue and Moir were all softness and grace, Davis and White's "Phantom of the Opera" was big and bold, as powerful as any Broadway production. They skated perfectly to the music, flying across the ice in the fast parts and oozing romance when it slowed.

Their lifts were akin to stunts, done at breakneck speed yet with perfect control. In one, White flipped Davis over his shoulder so she faced the opposite direction. Then, skating backward on one leg, he picked up the other and crossed it behind him, using it to balance his partner. With her arms stretched out wide, that crossed leg was the only thing keeping her from plunging to the ice.

Davis and White's only flaw was a point deduction, likely for an extended lift. But it wouldn't have made a difference in the final results.

"When you're in the moment and you're just enjoying yourself, it's easy to step over," Davis said.

Domnina and Shabalin's routine was very theatrical and highly entertaining, but ice dance has moved beyond the theater it was 10 years ago. The sport now requires good, old-fashioned skating skills, power and innovation, and Domnina and Shabalin didn't quite have it.

No. 21 is done in San Diego: Chargers release LT

SAN DIEGO (AP)—After nine mostly brilliant seasons, LaDainian Tomlinson was cut loose by the San Diego Chargers.

Slowed by injuries and age, Tomlinson would have been paid more to produce less in a Chargers offense that was turning toward the passing game, and on Monday one of the NFL's best running backs was officially released.

"I told him that in the 26 years that I've been in this business, it was probably the hardest thing I've had to do," team president Dean Spanos told The Associated Press. "I'm not close to a lot of the players, but there's a handful that I've been close with, and he's probably the closest. It was really difficult to tell him. But out of respect, I wanted to tell him earlier rather than later."

Tomlinson was due a $2 million roster bonus in early March, which all but guaranteed he would be cut loose, as well as a $5 million salary for 2010. He still had two years left on his contract, which was reworked during a somewhat tumultuous period last offseason.

L.T. wasn't immediately available for comment. He said after the Chargers' playoff loss to the New York Jets that he felt he could still play for a few more seasons.

"He was one of the greatest players and people that I've ever had a chance to be around and he will be missed," outside linebacker Shawne Merriman said in an e-mail to the AP.

"What L.T. has meant to this town and to this team, in nine years, the impact he's had both on and off the field, we may never see that again," quarterback Philip Rivers said before accepting an award at a sports banquet Monday night. "You're not just going to replace L.T. himself. He was more than a running back."

General manager A.J. Smith called it "a tough day, a sad day for everybody in the organization. But it's always tough to part ways with great players who helped you win games. It's not a pleasant day, but we're working through it."

Agent Tom Condon said he'll spend time at the forthcoming NFL combine in Indianapolis determining interest from other teams.

"I think they did us a favor in terms of releasing him before we go to the combine. That part of it was positive," Condon told the AP. "L.T. during Super Bowl week had indicated it was time to move on, and they accommodated him. He's had a Hall of Fame run there as a Charger."

Tomlinson, who turned 30 last summer, was injured early in the 2009 season and finished with 730 yards on 223 carries for an average of 3.3 yards per carry, all career lows.

Condon doesn't think Tomlinson is finished.

"It's one of those things with the very, very special players, like Emmitt Smith, Marcus Allen, guys like that," Condon said. "You can't predict what they're going to do. They seem to defy the odds. He keeps himself in tremendous condition. I think he feels like he can go forward for several more years."

Tomlinson ranks eighth on the all-time rushing list with 12,490 yards. His 138 career rushing touchdowns rank second, and his 153 total touchdowns rank third.

He was the NFL's MVP in 2006, when he set league single-season records with 31 touchdowns, including 28 rushing, and 186 points. Tomlinson won the NFL's rushing title in 2006 and '07.

Perhaps his most memorable moment as a Charger came on Dec. 10, 2006, when he swept into the end zone late in a game against the Denver Broncos for his third touchdown of the afternoon to break Shaun Alexander's year-old record of 28 touchdowns.

His linemen hoisted him onto their shoulders and carried him toward the sideline, with Tomlinson holding the ball high in his right hand and waving his left index finger, while the fans chanted "L.T.! L.T.!" and "MVP! MVP!"

"I had the best view in the house on some of those awesome runs he made," Rivers said.

"He's just been a great player for us," Smith said. "Also, the character, integrity, work ethic, along with his talent, have been unbelievable. He's a Hall of Famer right now. He will be a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

Coming off a 1-15 finish in 2000, and trying to dig out from the nightmarish Ryan Leaf years, the Chargers held the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 draft. They sent that pick to the Atlanta Falcons on the day before the draft began for a package that included the fifth pick, which they used to select Tomlinson out of TCU. The Falcons took Michael Vick with the top pick.

"When he came here in 2001, we were a struggling franchise," Spanos said. "It's clear that we are where we are today because of him. He truly has been the heart and soul of our team all these years, and just done an outstanding job and helped turn this franchise around into a winning franchise. It couldn't have been done without him."

Spanos said he and Tomlinson expressed disappointment that the player never got a chance to win a Super Bowl title.

"We came close but just never quite got there," Spanos said.

The Chargers made five playoff appearances during Tomlinson's time here. They advanced to the AFC championship game following the 2007 season but lost to the New England Patriots.

Spanos said Tomlinson "was very, very gracious and very respectful" during their meeting. "He had his typical smile. He was just as good as could be, as respectful as could be. Just really, like he is, first class."

Deadline for Saipan Marathon is Feb. 25

Paging all Runners: the absolute last day to register for this year's Saipan Marathon is tomorrow, Feb. 25.

Early registration is standard for this type of international event; as the Saipan Marathon grows in popularity and number of participants, early registration is necessary for thorough planning and preparation.

Registration is at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Road which is open until 5pm tomorrow.

The first big March race in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Saipan Marathon will be held on March 6. This important sports event, sponsored by the MVA, includes a full marathon (26.2 miles/42.195 kilometers), a half marathon (13.1 miles/21.1 km) and a fun run of 10 km (6.2 miles). Each run includes seven age divisions: 14 & under, 15- 19, 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50 – 59; 60 and up. The top male and top female finisher in the marathon only (not half marathon or 10K fun run) will each receive $1,000.

Entrance fee for the full marathon is $65, with $55 for the half marathon and fun run. The increase from last year's entrance fees is necessitated by additional costs, including the preceding carbo dinner and electronic timing to assure accurate race times.

Last year, over 600 runners from Japan, Korea, Guam, and the CNMI joined this event. MVA estimates that total participation this year will top 1,000. To date, over 400 Japanese runners have registered for the race. Mari Ozaki, a popular runner in Japan who has been invited to attend the London Marathon, will be running in the half-marathon event here. The Saipan Marathon is positioning itself to become one of the Top 3 overseas marathons for Japanese runners along with the Honolulu Marathon and Hong Kong Marathon.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio is looking forward to this year's event. "This race brings many world-class runners to the NMI. The Saipan Marathon is a real win-win—it's a wonderful race course for the runners, and it exposes the runners and their families to the beauties and attractions of the Northern Mariana Islands."

For more information about the Saipan Marathon, please contact MVA's Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3200/01 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

One week later on March 13, the 9th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship will take place. The XTERRA is an extreme triathlon challenge that includes a 1.5-km swim, a 12-km trail run, and a 30-km mountain bike race.

On March 20, the annual Tagaman Triathlon will feature a 2-km swim, a 60-km bike ride, and a 15-km run. Cash prizes are given for Top 6 male and female finishers as well as trophies to age group winners.

For more information about any of these activities, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at 1-670-664-3200 or ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

A Japanese tourist nears the finish line in last year's Saipan Marathon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

FIESTA

From Page 28

and gave the leather to Pete Lizama, who ran out of space underneath the basket and lost the ball at the baseline.

John March Ong inbounded the ball for Fiesta and Mina had a hand on the leather, before Adonis Macoto recovered it and drew a foul. Macoto later split his charities, upping Fiesta's lead to a deuce, 81-79, with nine seconds remaining on the clock.

From the backcourt, Jaymar Torres went for baseball pass to Lizama at Aqua's frontcourt. Macoto intercepted the pass, but again could not complete the steal, as he lost his balance on the way down. Lizama recovered, drove to the left wing, and went up for a banked shot. He overshot his mark, but Lizama grabbed the offensive board and since he thought the clock was running out, he threw a poor shot with his back turned to the basket. He missed again with the clock still reading two seconds and Fiesta getting possession and wasting the time to preserve the win.

Elmer Esdrelon paced Fiesta with 34 points, while Rommel Usi debuted for Fiesta with 10 markers.

In the first game, MBI/Dial Full Force dominated Cellular Pro from start to finish to remain undefeated in the league.

As early as the first period, MBI had already doubled Cellular Pro's output, 25-12, and although the latter cut the lead to seven at halftime, 33-44, the former still walked away with a big winning margin.

R.J. Nonato top-scored for MBI for the second time, nailing 20 markers.

First Game

MBI/Dial Full Force 87 – Nonato 20, Trajano 16, David 10, De Vero 10, Garcia 6, Barbo 6, Achas 6, Muleta 5, Penalosa 4, Cordero 3, Cabrera 1.

Cellular Pro 71 – Dulfo 26, Rotap 11, Hernandez 8, Villanueva 6, Manuel 5, Santos 3, A. Loste 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-12, 40-33, 65-41, 87-61.

Second Game

Fiesta 81 – Esdrelon 34, Usi 10, Carino 9, Macoto 9, De la Torre 5, Ong 4, Galag 3, Valdes 3, Jinang 3.

Aqua Resort Club 79 – Aquino 32, Gapor 15, Lizama 11, Mina 7, Johanes 6, Mc. Achas 4, Mi. Achas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 37-39, 63-60, 81-79.

LOYOLA

From Page 28

Tan and joined two doubles events. The Saipan duo made it to the finals of the mixed doubles 35 after topping Magiwa Goodman and Craig Tsuda in the semifinals.

Loyola and Tan lost the opening set, 5-7, but recovered after sweeping the last two sets, 6-4, 10-6, to set a title duel against Jocelyn and Wendel Roden of Guam. The hosts then beat the visitors in the finals, 6-3, 6-3.

Tan and Loyola also competed in the mixed open doubles and this time defeated the Roden in the quarterfinals. Again, the Saipan pair was off to a slow start, losing the opening set, 4-6, before sweeping the last two sets, 6-3, 10-8, to advance to the semis. In the Final Four round, Tan and Loyola bowed to Bill Camacho and Kimberly Borders in three sets, 5-7, 6-3, 7-10.

The duo of Tan and Loyola were the champions in the mixed 4.5 doubles in the same tournament last year, but this time decided to move up to the open division.

"We decided to play in a much higher level of competition (open), as games in this division will help us in our preparation for the Micronesian Games," Loyola said.

Loyola and Tan are among the players trying out for slots on the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

They played in two tournaments on Saipan this year—Saipan Tennis Challenge and Coconut Classic—and need more events on and off-island to be in their top form once selected to represent the CNMI to the Micro Games.

Joining Tan and Loyola in Guam was mother and daughter Sally and Vivian Lee.

Sally Lee teamed up with Guam's George Lai and the duo defeated Alta Day and Pacho Madrid in the mixed 45 doubles finals, 6-4, 6-4.

The younger Lee was paired with Sung and they lost to the second-seeded pair of Camacho and Borders in the first round.

PROS

From Page 28

The 5'9" and 27-year-old D'Amore was the first player in NAU team history to record five triple-doubles in a career and the first player in NAU team history with 500 kills, 2,000 assists, and 500 digs. She was once an AAU Girls National Champion in the U16/U15 age group in 1998, qualified for the AAU Junior Olympics, and won the New Zealand Open in Auckland in 2005. In 2008, she took a break from the sand court due to an injury, but returned to action last year, teaming up with Emily Day to rule the NORCECA event in Jamaica and finished sixth in digs per game for the 2009 season.

D'Amore's earnings since joining AVP in 2003 now totaled to $21,185. Her best finish in the AV Tour was at the ninth spot (three times) and 17th in international tournaments.

D' Amore and Snyder will be using the Marianas Cup to warm-up for pre-season events. The two U.S. spikers are scheduled to go to El Salvador next month for the North, Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation event.

The four U.S. pros will kick off the festivities in Marianas Cup on Thursday, as they visit Grace Christian Academy and Marianas High School to share some tips with students. Later in the afternoon, the group will conduct a kids clinic on the sand court of the Pacific Islands Club.

Laurie Peterka, president of the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, said they have yet to iron out the pros' schedule for Friday, but on Saturday and Sunday, D'Amore and company will play in the women's and men's doubles competitions. In the past Marianas Cup, Friday night is reserve for exhibition games between the U.S. pros and those from either Japan or Korea.

This Saturday and Sunday, the pros will be teaming up with amateur players. Draws will be held to determine the lucky teammates of the visiting pros.

EPARWA

From Page 28

fifth with his total handicap of 63 and three-game total of 608 pinfalls.

Robert Talavera, who had the second lowest handicap of seven (total of 21), topped the qualifying roll-off with his three-game total of 699. Richard Leong finished second with his total of 696 pinfalls, including his three-game handicap of 42.

The Top 5 finishers among the 20 bowlers who joined the co-ed tournament then advanced to the step-ladder finals with Talavera earning an outright finals seat, while the four others slugged it out in do-or-die games.

In the first game, Eparwa was paired against Verdaguer and won, 215-203, to move into the quarterfinals against De Leon. Eparwa played better in his second playoff match and topped De Leon, 218-184, to set up a semifinal duel against the second-seeded Leong.

In the semifinals, Eparwa slowed down a bit, but his 195 pinfalls were enough to stun Leong, who knocked down only 184 pins.

Eparwa's third straight victory in the step-ladder round earned him the second finals berth and the right to face the No. 1 seed Talavera. Eparwa then completed his winning run with a 200-189 win over Talavera in the championship game.

Aside from the bragging rights in the handicap tournament, Eparwa also won $300. Talavera settled for the runner-up prize of $175, while Leong pocketed $125. De Leon and Verdaguer went home with $100 and $75, respectively.

Other bowlers who joined the three-day tournament, but failed to make the cut were Roger De Guzman, Darwin Gonzales, Ferdee Generoso, Alex Casto, Raul Dumapit, Simon Manacop, Jeff Javier, Rusty Musca, Lito Teodoro, Boy Corbito, Ronald Epan, Alex Cacdac, Gloria Omechelang, Dianne Chong, and Russelle Zapanta.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	19	.648	–
Toronto	31	24	.564	4 1/2
Philadelphia	21	34	.382	14 1/2
New York	19	36	.345	16 1/2
New Jersey	5	51	.089	31

Southeast Division

Orlando	38	19	.667	–
Atlanta	35	20	.636	2
Miami	29	28	.509	9
Charlotte	27	28	.491	10
Washington	20	34	.370	16 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	43	14	.754	–
Chicago	29	27	.518	13 1/2
Milwaukee	27	28	.491	15
Detroit	20	35	.364	22
Indiana	19	37	.339	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	36	21	.632	–
San Antonio	31	23	.574	3 1/2
New Orleans	30	26	.536	5 1/2
Houston	28	27	.509	7
Memphis	28	27	.509	7

Northwest Division

Denver	37	19	.661	–
Utah	36	20	.643	1
Oklahoma City	33	21	.611	3
Portland	32	26	.552	6
Minnesota	13	44	.228	24 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	42	14	.750	–
Phoenix	34	23	.596	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	23	33	.411	19
Sacramento	18	38	.321	24
Golden State	16	39	.291	25 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Washington 101, Chicago 95
Milwaukee 83, New York 67
Dallas 91, Indiana 82
Atlanta 105, Utah 100
L.A. Clippers 98, Charlotte 94

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	57	578	450	1710	30.0
Durant, OKC	54	527	475	1610	29.8
Anthony, DEN	43	425	362	1254	29.2
Bryant, LAL	51	527	302	1426	28.0
Wade, MIA	55	508	365	1436	26.1
Ellis, GOL	50	506	231	1291	25.8
Nowitzki, DAL	55	485	360	1360	24.7
Bosh, TOR	53	463	368	1300	24.5
Johnson, ATL	54	460	154	1168	21.6
Stoudemire, PHX	57	458	300	1216	21.3
Jackson, CHA	54	417	226	1145	21.2
Randolph, MEM	55	452	210	1121	20.4
Lee, NYK	54	461	173	1095	20.3
Maggette, GOL	50	324	355	1013	20.3
Evans, SAC	51	375	250	1026	20.1
Gay, MEM	53	409	205	1065	20.1
Rose, CHI	55	460	166	1092	19.9
Kaman, LAC	49	400	166	966	19.7
Boozer, UTA	52	406	198	1010	19.4
Brooks, HOU	55	374	176	1061	19.3

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	237	387	.612
Howard, ORL	344	574	.599
Hilario, DEN	299	506	.591
Gasol, MEM	303	522	.580
Millsap, UTA	261	453	.576
Bynum, LAL	320	563	.568
Horford, ATL	309	546	.566
O'Neal, CLE	250	442	.566
Haywood, DAL	207	369	.561
Lee, NYK	461	826	.558

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	57	204	565	769	13.5
Camby, POR	53	176	465	641	12.1
Noah, CHI	47	177	377	554	11.8
Randolph, MEM	55	238	407	645	11.7
Lee, NYK	54	141	476	617	11.4
Bosh, TOR	53	159	446	605	11.4
Boozer, UTA	52	111	470	581	11.2
Duncan, SAN	51	170	389	559	11.0
Wallace, CHA	52	107	453	560	10.8
Bogut, MIL	48	149	343	492	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	57	638	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	50	497	9.9
Rondo, BOS	53	514	9.7
Kidd, DAL	55	506	9.2
James, CLE	57	479	8.4
Davis, LAC	53	414	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	54	414	7.7
Wade, MIA	55	352	6.4
Duhon, NYK	54	332	6.1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S CAGING STANDINGS

MBI	4	0
World Resort	3	0
Fiesta Resort	3	0
Pacific Islands Club	1	0
Aqua Resort	2	1
TBK	2	1
Shirley's	2	1
Mobil	1	1
Pepsi	1	2
AON/NJ Plus	1	2
Docomo/SGH	0	1
McGraw-Hill	0	2
Bank of Guam	0	2
Hard Rock	0	3
Cell Pro	0	4

Rites of Passage 8: Fearless

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kang "Dr. Kang" Bum Chang connects on a kick against Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse in their 155-lb. bout in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 8: Fearless at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Left, Slade "The Rage" Adelbai and Hyun Kyu "The Ace" Lim in their fighting stance during their 180-lb. bout.

Saipan's Frank Demapan in action against Tinian's Sigfried Enriquez.

Chris "No Luv" Laayug, right, tries to keep Young Nam "The Hippo" Gu down the mat during their 145-lb. bout.

Ben Duenas, top, has control of his bout against Tinian's George Manglona.

Guam's C.J. "The Face" Takai, left, manages to elude a punch from Josh Cruz.

Kev "The Rev" Estevez tries to choke Mark Nuque during the early goings of the first round of their 140-lb. bout.

Saipan's Jason Teregeyo, left, tries to pin down Tinian's Jerry Mundo.

Referee Tony D'Angelo watches Tinian's Craig "Earthquake" Borja, left, tries to pin down the bloody Frank Benavente of Guam.

Tinian's Peter Cepeda, right, uses his elbow to ward off Denri "The Dynamite" Fiden during the first round of their three-round bout.

Canada's Virtue-Moir win ice dance gold

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hawks end 17-year drought in Utah with win vs Jazz

PAGE 24

Fiesta, MBI/Dial Full Force still perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Micronesian Brokers, Inc./Dial Full Force extended their winning runs after recording contrasting victories in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MBI/Dial Full Force routed Cellular Pro in the first game, 87-61, while Fiesta slipped past Aqua Resort Club in the second match, 81-79. The win was MBI's fourth in as many games, putting the defending champion on top of the leaderboard in the 15-team league. Fiesta is also on a roll, improving to a 3-0 record to tie World Resort/Advance in second place. Aqua dropped to a 2-1 mark, sharing the third spot with TBK Auto Shop and Shirley's, while Cellular Pro remained at the cellar with its dismal 0-4 mark.

Split free throws from Elmer Esdrelon and Adonis Macoto in the closing seconds of the match allowed Fiesta to keep its perfect record.

Esdrelon's second free throw gave Fiesta an 80-79 advantage, with 24 seconds left, and Aqua bungled chances to grab the lead and the win, losing the ball a couple of times in the stretch.

Aqua's first offensive set in the last 24 seconds left was foiled when Edel Carino deflected Ziddy Johanes' lob pass to Jessie Mina at the right baseline. Fortunately for Aqua, Carino could not complete the interception, as the ball went out of the baseline. Mina then made an inbound

See FIESTA on Page 26

MBI/Dial Full Force's Noel David, right, goes for a layup against Cellular Pro's Mike Rotap during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Loyola, Wong triumph in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games hopeful Peter Loyola and fellow Saipan-based netter Sally Wong won their respective divisions in the 2010 Guam Quality Cup tennis tournament held over at the weekend at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa tennis courts.

Loyola joined the men's 35 singles and ruled the round-robin tournament after beating Khay Sung and Joseph Cruz. Loyola's 6-0, 6-3 win over Cruz gave the former the men's 35 singles title.

Loyola then teamed up with Lydia

See LOYOLA on Page 26

Teammates Peter Loyola, right, and Lydia Tan pose before their game in the mixed open doubles division in the 2010 Quality Cup tennis tournament in Guam on Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2 pros to debut in Marianas Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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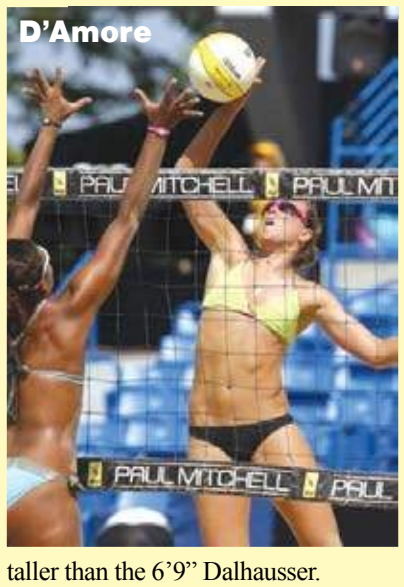
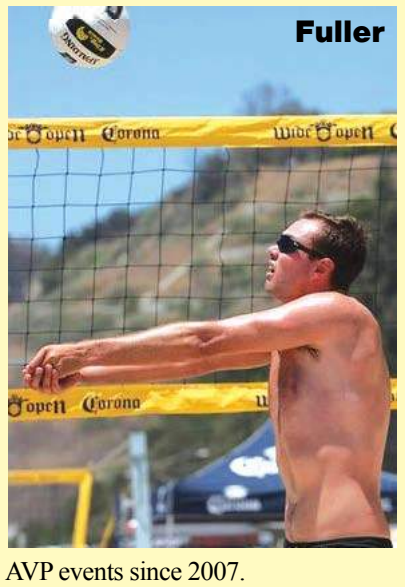
REPORTER

Beach volleyball fans in the CNMI will see two new faces among the pros who will spice up the action in this weekend's 18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

U.S. pros Andrew Fuller and Claire D'Amore will debut in the biggest beach volleyball event in the Commonwealth, joining returnees Paul Baxter and Jenn Snyder. Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser, who graced the previous four editions of Marianas Cup, could not make it this year due to an earlier commitment, turning the fans' attention to the newcomers.

Fuller like Dalhausser and Baxter, is on the AVP Tour and had his best finish in the elite group at No. 17. The Virginia Tech graduate Fuller will be the tallest player to play in the Marianas Cup, standing at 6'10", an inch





taller than the 6'9" Dalhausser.

The 26-year-old Fuller was an opposite hitter of one men's club team in Virginia Tech and was selected honorable mention at the 2006 NIRSA Collegiate Championships. After graduation, he was invited to tryout for the U.S. National Team. He played in 17 AVP events since 2007.

D'Amore is from Northern Arizona University and once earned the 2001 NAU Golden Eagle Scholar Athlete Award. She also made it to the honorable mention all-conference in 2002 and second-team in 2003.

See PROS on Page 26

Eparwa stuns Talavera in bowling tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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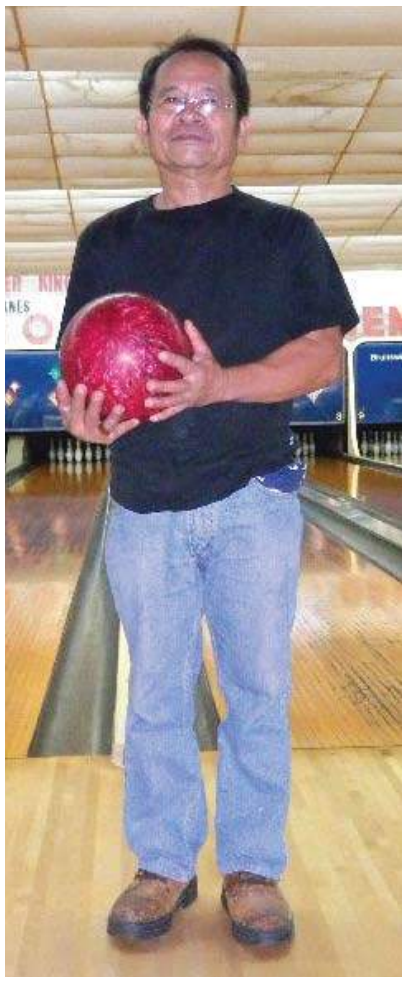
REPORTER

Veteran bowler Simeon Eparwa climbed his way up to the championship of the 3-Day Bowling Tournament with Handicap held recently at the Capital Bowling Center and Saipan Bowling Center.

Eparwa finished only third in the qualifying roll-off and then pulled off an upset over the Top 2 finishers in the qualifier to rule the tournament. Eparwa totaled 608 pinfalls in three games and adding his 38 handicap (114 total in three games), he ended up with 671 pinfalls for third place.

Actually, Eparwa was in a three-way tie with Ramir De Leon and Tony Verdeguer, but won the tiebreak via one-ball sudden death roll-off. De Leon, who had a total handicap of 84 and three-game total of 587, settled for fourth, while Verdaguer dropped to

See EPARWA on Page 26



Simeon Eparwa strikes a pose after ruling the 3-Day Bowling Tournament with Handicap held recently at the Capital Bowling Center and Saipan Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO